

Socialists urge peace conference

PARIS (R) — The Socialist International Council Wednesday called for an international peace conference on the Middle East, saying Israel should respond to Palestinians' expressed "intention to live in peace." The council, which represents socialist parties worldwide, said it would send its own study missions early in 1989 to Israel and the Arab states. It said it would hold talks with Palestinians in the occupied territories and with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leaders before holding a Middle East hearing in Brussels next spring. French Socialist Party First Secretary Pierre Mauroy chaired a news conference at the end of the group's two-day meeting almost concurrently with a news conference in Stockholm where Yasser Arafat said the PLO renounced violence and recognised the state of Israel. The council's statement urged all parties involved in the conflict to renounce violence and said Israel should adhere to Geneva convention regulations in the occupied zones. The resolution urgently requested that the Soviet Union and China establish diplomatic relations with Israel.

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Arab League condemns U.S.

TUNIS (R) — The Arab League Wednesday condemned the United States for taking Israel's side in the Middle East conflict and appealed to all countries to recognise the newly-proclaimed Palestinian state. In a statement issued after an extraordinary meeting in Tunis, the Arab League Council said: "The council condemns the total and incessant alignment of the United States with Israel, the latest example of which... was its obstinate refusal to let the chairman of the PLO Executive Committee take part in meetings of the United Nations." The statement, timed to coincide with the first anniversary of the uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories, added: "The council urges all the states in the world to give full recognition of the Palestinian state and affirm support for the rights for which the Palestinian people are fighting." The Palestine National Council (PNC), proclaimed the Palestinian state in Algiers Nov. 15. More than 70 states have recognised it. Arafat wanted to address the U.N. General Assembly in New York on the PNC's other decisions, especially its acceptance of U.N. Resolution 242 as the basis of a peace conference. Washington denied him a visa and he will now address the Assembly in Geneva next week.

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Palestinians mark anniversary of liberation revolt

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — At least six Palestinians were shot and wounded by Israeli soldiers Wednesday in violent anti-occupation protests in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as the Israeli army and the Palestinians braced for demonstrations marking the first anniversary of the uprising in the occupied territories.

Palestinian professionals marked the anniversary, which falls Thursday, by appealing to U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to support the independent Palestinian state, declared by the Palestine National Council (PNC) last month. Israeli police accused the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) Fatah faction of guiding

an Israeli Arab group in attacks and said they had arrested 600 suspects in Israel and the occupied territories, Israel Radio said. Police said they arrested 13 Israeli bedouins, two of them soldiers, suspected of a grenade attack in Haifa that wounded 25 people on an Israeli shopping street. Israeli media reported Wednesday that Israel's Shin Bet

secret police had over the past two months arrested more than 600 Arabs suspected of 90 attacks. Police would not confirm the report.

The arrests were announced at a time when leaders of the uprising have taken an unprecedented step by urging Israel's 600,000 Arabs to join protests by the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In the occupied territories Wednesday, soldiers shot and wounded six Palestinian boys during at least two confrontations with stone-throwing and tyre-burning demonstrators in the Gaza Strip, hospital officials said. Troops also clamped a curfew on the commercial centre of the West Bank city of Ramallah and detained about 200 Arabs after a firebomb was thrown at an Israeli (Continued on page 2)

Arafat: PNC accepted two states — Israel and Palestine

STOCKHOLM (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said Wednesday he gave a delegation of American Jews clarifications of PLO policy to accept Israel's existence and condemn all forms of terrorism. He told a news conference that a two-page statement drafted with the Jewish group was "an accurate reading and interpretation" of the resolutions adopted last month by the Palestine National Council, and "for us it is nothing new."

At its meeting in Algeria, the PNC declared an independent Palestinian state and accepted U.N. resolutions that implicitly recognise Israel's right to exist. It also reiterated its support for the Cairo declaration of 1985, in which the PLO said it would limit attacks to military targets in Israel and the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Arafat vowed that the year-long Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories would go on until an independent Palestinian state was established.

Addressing the news conference after two days of talks with a group of five American Jewish peace campaigners, Arafat said the PNC had effectively recognised Israel last month.

"The PNC accepted two states, a Palestinian state and a Jewish state, Israel. It is clear enough," he said. Arafat and the Jewish delegation issued a joint statement after the talks, which they said clarified PNC resolutions adopted in Algiers.

The four-point statement said the PNC had "established the independent state of Palestine and accepted the existence of Israel as a state in the region." The PNC had implicitly recognised Israel's right to exist without mentioning the Jewish state by name.

A media adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir dismissed Arafat's acceptance of Israel as a publicity stunt.

"It is very sad that a group of American Jews is engaged in negotiations with a 'terrorist' organisation whose aim was and remains the replacement of Israel

by a Palestinian state," Avi Pazner said.

The five-member Jewish delegation in Stockholm hailed the PLO document, which was read to reporters by Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson, as "an important step forward in the peace process" that removed ambiguities from the PNC declaration of Nov. 15.

"With this clarification of what were ambiguities in the Algiers document, we hope fervently that the United States will open a dialogue with the PLO," said Rita Hausner, a New York lawyer and leader of the Jewish delegation.

The United States had called the PNC declaration vague, and said it did not explicitly recognise Israel's right to exist or renounce "terrorism." Two conditions it had set before establishing any contacts with the PLO.

"The conditions the United States has been insisting on since 1976 have been met," said Hausner, speaking to reporters in a separate news conference.

In Washington, U.S. President Ronald Reagan withheld immediate comment Wednesday on the new PLO statement.

"We haven't had time to review what it is that he said there specifically," Reagan said. "We're looking forward to that."

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said it was "strange" that Arafat himself did not read the statement on his meetings with the U.S. Jews in Sweden.

"If the PLO has something to say, since when is the Swedish foreign minister a PLO spokesman?" Peres said on Israel television.

"Why didn't Arafat read this statement?... it's very strange to me that the Swedish foreign minister reads an Arafat statement..."

Andersson, calling the statement "historic," sent the text to the U.S. State Department, and said he will send a personal letter from Arafat to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

But Andersson also said after two days of talks with Arafat that the statement was "a step in a process which must necessarily consist of much more."

The statement was drafted two weeks ago during secret talks in Stockholm between Hausner and two others in her delegation with a PLO group led by Khaled Al Hassan, a top PNC official.

The document was debated and

endorsed by the PLO Executive Committee earlier this week, said Drora Kass of the Jewish delegation.

The Jewish group is from the International Centre for Peace in the Middle East, a Tel Aviv-based leftist coalition with branches in Israel, the United States and Europe. Its international chairman is Abba Eban, Israel's former foreign minister from the Labour Party.

Following is a text of the joint statement issued in Stockholm Wednesday:

The Palestine National Council met in Algiers from Nov. 12 to 15, 1988, and announced the declaration of independence, which proclaimed the State of Palestine and issued a political statement.

The following explanation was given by the representatives of the PLO of certain important points in the Palestinian declaration of independence and the political statement adopted by the PNC in Algiers:

1. Among the principle incorporated in those U.N. resolutions which call for a two-state solution of Israel and Palestine.

The PNC:

1. Agreed to enter into peace negotiations at an international conference under the auspices of the U.N. with the participation of the permanent members of the Security Council and the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, on an equal footing with the other parties to the conflict such as an international conference is to be held on the basis of U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338 and the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, without external interference, as provided in the U.N. Charter, including the right to an independent state, which conference should resolve the Palestinian problem in all its aspects;

2. Established the independent state of Palestine and accepted the existence of Israel as a state in the region;

3. Declared its rejection and condemnation of terrorism in all its forms, including state terrorism;

4. Called for a solution to the Palestinian refugee problem in accordance with international law and practices and relevant U.N. resolutions (including right of return or compensation).

The American personalities strongly supported and applauded the Palestinian declaration of independence and the political statement adopted in Algiers and felt there was no further impediment to a direct dialogue between the United States government and the PLO.

Labour's executive rejected last week a proposal to enter coalition talks with Likud, with opposition led by some of the party's leading younger members out of fear the party would lose its "dovish" identity in a broad government.

But the party's efforts to form a majority with the help of religious factions have failed and Peres and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who both favour joining a "unity" government, have been offered key ministries in a Shamir-led cabinet.

A senior Labour source said the central committee would con-

sider demanding as a condition for a "unity" coalition that the government change within two years an electoral system that gives small parties disproportionate power.

If this were agreed the outcome at the central committee meeting would be very close, the source said. "People believe that after the president intervened, to go against him would be a slap in the face."

Meanwhile Shamir, who has tried to form a government since inconclusive Nov. 1 elections gave him a slight edge over Labour, intensified his own negotiations with religious parties to strengthen his hand before the Labour vote.

"We are working on two tracks, one on a narrow government and one on a broad government," his spokesman Yossi Ahimeir said.

Shamir met leaders of the ultra-orthodox Agudat Israel party and Likud ministers met National Religious Party (NRP) heads and the far-right Tebiya Party.

(Continued on page 2)



King returns from Britain

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein returned home Wednesday at the conclusion of a several-day working visit to the United Kingdom during which he reviewed with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher the latest developments in the Middle East and the efforts exerted to convene an international peace conference.

The King also stressed the positive strategy adopted by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as reflected in the resolutions adopted by the Palestine National Council (PNC) which met in Algiers last month.

The King also delivered a lecture at Cambridge University in which he reviewed the developments

of the situation in the Middle East region and emphasised the necessity to ensure the international community's cooperation to work out a settlement for the Palestine problem through an international peace conference.

The King had earlier paid working visits to Sanaa and Cairo and held talks with North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Upon arrival the King was received by His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, and senior civilian and military officials.

CAEU readmits Egypt, tackles financial straits

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Economics Correspondent

AMMAN — The Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) Wednesday reinstated Egypt's membership nearly a decade after suspending it over its separate peace treaty with Israel. Syria and Libya expressed reservations on the decision.

Emerging from a closed session of the council, Kuwaiti Finance Minister Jassem Al Khorafi told reporters the council decided to readmit Egypt and to invite Cairo to attend the council's next session scheduled to be held in next July.

Khorafi, who chaired this session of the one-day meeting, said the council's decision came in line with the general tendency in the region to bring back into perspective Egypt's role in the Arab World.

Arab countries severed diplomatic ties with Egypt following Cairo's 1979 Camp David treaty with Israel, but all Arab states except Libya, Syria and Lebanon have reestablished diplomatic relations.

Jordan, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Iraq introduced the proposal to readmit Egypt into the council. Egypt's return brings the council's members to 13 including Jordan, Iraq, Palestine, UAE, Mauritania, North Yemen, South Yemen, Kuwait, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Libya.

CAEU Secretary General Hassan Ibrahim told the meeting's opening session that the council was discussing the possibility of abolishing customs tariffs for a number of Arab-manufactured goods. He reviewed the council's achievements since its establishment in 1964 and cited the establishment of the Arab Common Market as the most important achievement but lamented the lack of cooperation, which he said was responsible for the failure to achieve the aspired goals.

He said the ministers would lay down unified concepts on joint projects in agriculture and industry.

Industry and Trade Minister Hamdi Tabbaa told reporters the CAEU also discussed ways to help the council out of its present financial crisis. Council officials said the CAEU was in need of \$3 million to be able to function on an annual basis.

Tabbaa said that member states agreed to financially support the CAEU, but only after a restructuring of the council to guarantee better efficiency and to avoid duplication of work. He said that a four-member committee was established for this purpose.

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HM Queen Noor

Queen Noor helps raise funds for Jerusalem hospital

LONDON (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor was the guest of honour at a gala dinner held in London Wednesday in support of the activities of St. John Ophthalmic Hospital in Jerusalem. Queen Noor, Associate Dame of Justice of the Order of St. John, and the Patron of the London-based Friends of St. John Ophthalmic Hospital, has supported several activities designed to help the hospital raise the necessary funds to offer its medical services to tens of thousands of Palestinians living under Israeli occupation. A similar dinner in September hosted by the lord mayor of London raised £24,000 which helped cover part of the hospital's £600,000 deficit.

The hospital, with an annual budget of £1.3 million, is run by a team of specialists from the United Kingdom, the United States, Australia and Canada.

Wednesday's dinner, presided over by Lord Westbury, the Bailiff of Egle of the Order of St. John, included a fund-raising auction of items donated by several individuals and philanthropic societies. Queen Noor donated several woolen rugs woven by the women of Bani Hamida. The women operate and take part in a community development project designed to raise living standards by increasing family income while preserving traditional crafts and adapting them for contemporary use.

The dinner at the Intercontinental Hotel was also attended by Jordan's Ambassador to Britain and Mrs. Albert Butros, several other Arab ambassadors, and British dignitaries and leaders in the fields of commerce and industry.

Intifada enters second year with renewed vigour

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Political Editor

AMMAN — As the Palestinian uprising against Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip enters the second year today, one thing has been proved beyond doubt: the political map of the Middle East has been changed and there is no way it could be redrawn to the day before Dec. 8, 1987, the day the intifada broke out in the occupied territories in the form of spontaneous protests against the occupation.

The intifada, which has claimed hundreds of deaths and thousands of injuries since day one, was the culmination of the Palestinian people's pent-up frustration over Israel's apathy towards repeated efforts by outside forces to bring about a negotiated settlement of the Palestinian problem.

No-one can deny the fact that it was indeed the intifada that was the catalyst in bringing about the dramatic political developments leading to the Nov. 15 declaration in Algiers of an independent Palestinian state by the Palestine National Council (PNC).

While violent protests were the order of the day in the occupied territories, moderation prevailed on the ranks of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and brought about the PLO's acceptance of key U.N. resolutions seen essential to any settlement of the Palestinian problem. For many Palestinians, the PNC declaration was the climax of the uprising, but the fact remains that there is little change on the ground on the Israeli's part towards accepting a just and fair settlement.

The Palestinians in the occupied territories paid a heavy price — over 550 officially confirmed deaths and thousands of injuries and broken bones in the 12 months of the revolt, not to speak of the thousands still under detention — for shaking the status quo, but this appears to bother them little. Many analysts agree that the outbreak of the revolt instilled the firm feeling in the Palestinian mind that any solution to their problem has to come from within themselves and their destiny was in their own hands.

Sure enough, the 12 months of the uprising swept the political chessboard and rendered

any stalemate impossible. The revolt turned the Palestinian problem from one of outside forces trying to liberate the land into a classic struggle of an occupied people striving to break the chains of occupation. But where do they go from here? One thing is sure; there cannot be any return to the pre-December 1987 days. The Palestinians in the occupied territories have found it within themselves to make the territories ungovernable for the occupier and that was indeed the only answer to the problem, given the special characteristics of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

It is widely agreed that the Palestinian people have achieved their primary goals in the first year of the intifada; a Palestinian state has been declared and recognised by over 60 countries, the PLO has adopted a dramatic turn towards moderation and international legitimacy, the international conscience has been awakened by the violence that is sweeping the West Bank and Gaza and the way has been paved for Israel to enter peace negotiations, that is, if it chooses to. But the question remains: Will it choose to? Or will it continue to believe in military might as the answer to its "security problems" and to counter the "revolution of stones" with live ammunition with the hope that the revolt could be put out with force? "Peace in exchange for land"

The results of the Nov. 1 elections in Israel have shown that hardline thinking is prevailing in the Zionist state. But, despite all signs of defiance, some Israeli leaders have shown signs of willingness for peace, though at their own terms.

"In the given situation, it is enough that they realise that there has to be peace sooner or later," commented a political observer here. "From that point, it is up to the Palestinian people to force that thinking into more just and fair grounds and compel them to realise that their arguments for 'peace in exchange for land' can no longer be applicable and the only feasible formula is 'peace in exchange for land'."

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Gorbachev announces unilateral troops cut

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev announced Tuesday that the Soviet Union would unilaterally cut its military forces by a half-million troops and will reduce its conventional arms substantially "without relation" to international negotiations that have long been stalled in Vienna.

Gorbachev also called for a ceasefire in Afghanistan Jan. 1 and the dispatch of a U.N. peacekeeping force while a broad-based government is being established there.

In an address to the General

Assembly, he also asked Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to arrange an international conference on the neutrality and demilitarisation of Afghanistan.

Soviet officials distributed the text of Gorbachev's remarks as he went to the U.N. rostrum after meeting privately with U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on the first full day of a four-day visit to New York. Gorbachev outlined a dramatic reshaping of Soviet military positions in East Europe, on home territory and in Asia.

"By agreement with our Warsaw Treaty allies, we have decided to withdraw by 1991 six tank divisions from the German Democratic Republic (East Germany), Czechoslovakia and Hungary, and to disband them," he said.

Saying he was living up to a pledge to switch from an offensive to a defensive force structure, Gorbachev told the world body his nation would "maintain our country's defence capability at a level of reasonable and reliable sufficiency," to deter attack.

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Attack on central bank highlights Beirut deadlock

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Members of the civilian cabinet in Lebanon's dual government were at odds Wednesday, with one minister threatening to take over the central bank while the prime minister demanded it be preserved as the last shred of a unified country.

Militia leader, Walid Junblatt threatened in a speech Tuesday to exert control over the bank if it transferred money to Christian-dominated units of the Lebanese army, the daily Al Nahar reported.

The speech came a few hours before a rocket-propelled grenade slammed into the third floor of the central bank building in west Beirut. It caused severe damage but no casualties, police said.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack. Central Bank Governor Edmond Naim, a Maronite, resides on the top floor of the seven-storey building.

An aide to Prime Minister Salim Hoss quoted him as saying Wednesday: "If the central bank collapses the whole country will collapse with it."

Junblatt, head of the predominantly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), said: "We own the money and we own the central bank."

Junblatt, who is also minister of tourism as well as public works and transportation, spoke at a rally of supporters in the mountain resort of Ras Al Meten, 20 kilometres east of Beirut. He warned Naim against transferring money to Christian-led units of the Lebanese army in east Beirut and the Christian enclave northeast of the capital.

If Naim ignores the warning, "we shall demand that he be replaced by a nationalist authority to control the money in the central bank," said Junblatt. The country's rightist leaders also lashed out at Naim over the weekend. Naim was reported to have

refused to transfer allocations requested by Gen. Michel Aoun, head of the military cabinet of Lebanon's dual government, to repair jet fighters controlled by units of the Lebanese army.

Aoun Friday responded to Naim's stand by clamping a food, fuel and water blockade on west Beirut through closing the mid-city museum crossing that links the capital's two sectors.

Hoss denied Naim was pressured and defended the bank governor in a statement issued Wednesday.

"It is not true that the central bank and its governor have come under pressure to withhold funds from the east side," Hoss said. "The central bank is a red line which we will not allow anyone to cross or even touch," he warned. "The central bank is the cornerstone of Lebanon's unity. It is a national value."

A Hoss aide, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the leader regards the central bank as the "last symbol of Lebanon's unity."

Lebanon has been without a head of state since Sept. 23.

Intifada enters second year with new vigour

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Indeed, the price that the Palestinians will have to pay for such a change in Israeli thinking will be high, but no price is too high for freedom and self-determination.

On the political level, the PLO's acceptance of resolutions 242 and 338 has been a landmark in that it was one of the main demands of Israel's ally and supporter, the U.S., before allowing the PLO to play its rightful role in efforts to settle the problem. The American refusal of a visa to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat to address the United Nations General Assembly and present the new Palestinian strategy could even be seen as a blessing in disguise since it exposed the top-down stand of Washington as a potential mediator in the conflict, according to many Palestinian leaders who appear to be betting on Third World and European countries to support their cause in the international scene more strongly than ever.

But one thing is proven; the Palestinians will press ahead with their intifada regardless of the price in blood, and Israel will be hardpressed to answer to the international conscience

for its "iron fist" and "scorched earth" policies against the Palestinians. But will that make the Palestinian goals any nearer?

Help from themselves

One of the main internal achievements of the intifada is the mushrooming Palestinian social infrastructure in the occupied territories. According to an Arab-American political science professor from Bir Zeit University in the West Bank, "the intifada has laid the foundations of an independent Palestinian state totally free from Israeli clutches."

The professor points out that Israel's responses to stone-throwings and street demonstrations were calculated to inflict as much damage as possible to the social and economic fabric of Palestinian life through sustained curfews and economic "sanctions," as well as suspensions of water and power supply and cut-off in communication networks. "But, did the protests die down?" he asks. "On the contrary, the Israeli measures made the Palestinians look inward and seek help from among themselves. The result was the popular committees which automatically took

charge of running things in specified areas. If no cooking gas was available, firewood was provided to families. If water supply was cut off, drinking water was ferried from pipewells. If power was cut off, kerosene and oil lamps were lit. What the Israelis appear to be overlooking is that a majority of the Palestinians in the West Bank are villagers who are accustomed to easily doing without the luxuries of modern life. They can sustain such a life for years and feel none the worse for it."

The economic cost of the intifada has been staggering for the Palestinians. Repeated curfews and general strikes have dealt a severe blow to Palestinian businessmen, particularly those from the middle class. But there is little sign of protest from the business community in response to calls for new strikes. "There is of course resentment, but the prevailing

feeling is that it is also a part of the price that the Palestinians have to pay for liberation," said a Western journalist who visited the West Bank and Gaza recently.

According to a Palestinian mother, who paid a visit to the East Bank in November, the main feeling that the Palestinians share is that "we have come too far ahead to turn back now. It is totally up to us to make the enemy suffer as much as possible in his rule of our land. We may have to sacrifice more of our sons and daughters but we will not turn back."

The professor from Bir Zeit agrees. "The intifada crossed the point of no return long time ago. There can be no turning back now, if only because the Palestinians feel that any letting up on their part will herald a systematic Israeli move to root out all possibilities of the uprising rearing its head again."

Palestinian revolt

(Continued from page 1)

patrol, news reports said.

In Gaza, Palestinians staged protests in at least four refugee camps and towns, reports said. Violence erupted in two places,

the Khan Yunis refugee camp and nearby Bani Suheila village, wounding six teenagers, officials at Nasser hospital said.

Among those wounded were a 17-year-old was struck in the chest and an 18-year-old hit in the neck, said the officials.

Gorbachev announces cut

(Continued from page 1)

Arafat visa

In his speech, Gorbachev expressed deep regret that the United States denied a visa to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and expressed his solidarity with the PLO.

"We voice our deep regret over the incident and our solidarity with the Palestine Liberation Organisation," Gorbachev said.

Speaking in the context of the problem of settling regional conflicts, he said: "I have to express my opinion on the serious incident that has recently affected the work of this session."

He continued: "The chairman of an organisation which has observer status at the United Nations was not allowed by U.S. authorities to come to New York to address the General Assembly. I am referring to Yasser Arafat."

This happened at a time when the PLO "has made a constructive step which facilitates the search for a solution of the Middle East problem with the involvement of the United Nations Security Council," Gorbachev said.

PLAZA

TIMES

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PROGRAMME ONE
15:30 Koran
15:30 Programme review
16:00 Children programmes
16:30 Local programme
17:30 Programme on Jordan
18:00 News summary
18:05 World Reports
18:20 Local programme
18:50 "Alpha"
19:15 Health programme
19:40 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Programme on Islamic art
21:45 Film in Arabic
22:30 News summary in Arabic
23:10 Film (cont'd.)

PROGRAMME TWO
17:30 Des chiffres et de lettres
18:00 Adventures voyages
18:30 Race Carrot
19:00 News in French
19:15 French varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Bill Cosby Show
21:10 Beauty and the Beast
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature film: "Right of Way"

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07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsdesk
08:00 Morning Show
10:00 News Summary
10:05 Morning Show Cont'd.

PRAYER TIMES

11:00 Country Music
11:30 Hissville: The story of Mission
12:00 News Summary
12:05 New Music
13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Session
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instruments
14:30 Comedy
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:05 Instruments
16:30 Old Favourites
17:00 Animal, Vegetable, Mineral
17:30 Good Vibrations
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Special Feature
18:30 Music
19:00 Newsdesk
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:05 Evening Show Cont'd.
21:50 Evening Show Cont'd.
22:00 News Summary
22:05 Evening Show Cont'd.
22:30 Race Carrot
24:00 Close Down

MUSEUMS
"Children's Heritage and Science Museum." Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.
Feldhaus Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.

CHURCHES
Assemblies of God Church, Jabal Luweideh, Tel. 637785.
St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luweideh, Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, Tel. 661757. Sunday English mass (summer time 6 p.m., winter time 5 p.m.).
Terra Sancta Church (Roman Catholic). Jabal Luweideh, mass in Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 623366.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, Tel. 625383, chaplain's residence Tel. 625643.
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 775261.
St. Barbara Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church (Inter-denominational) meets at Southern Baptist School in Shamsian, Tel. 683326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church (Church of the Good Shepherd) Amman, Arabic Service: Sunday 7 p.m. Rev. N. Smir, tel. 811295.
Rainbow Congregation (meets at the

FOR THE TRAVELLER

Good Shepherd's Church) Inter-denominational-cum-ecumenical English Service: Saturday 6:30 p.m. tel. 625605, Rev. Vell.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormon) Tel. 815871, 821264.

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 5320-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)
09:10 Agaba (RJ)
09:10 Damascus (RJ)
09:15 Jeddah (RJ)
09:30 Cairo (RJ)
09:45 Dubai Abu Dhabi (RJ)
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10:55 Bangkok (RJ)
11:00 Bucharest (RJ)
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09:20 Baghdad (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)
12:10 Kuwait (TU)
13:35 Muscat, Bahrain (GF)
13:45 Kuwait (KU)
14:30 Dhahran (TK)
15:00 Riyadh (SV)

DEPARTURES ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

06:55 Agaba (RJ)
07:00 Tripoli (RJ)
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08:10 Bangkok (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)
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08:05 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
08:10 Bangkok (RJ)

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

FOR THE TRAVELLER
10:00 Abu Dhabi, Kuwait (RJ)
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11:00 Bucharest (RJ)
11:05 Rome (RJ)
09:20 Baghdad (RJ)

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:
Dr. Rami Al Mazawi 894788
Dr. Salah Al Esoud 776273
Dr. Othman Mustafa 774024
Dr. Zein Zaghoul 635591
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 777746
Al Asena pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 629672
Al Salma pharmacy 636759
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsi pharmacy 637660

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Rami Al Mazawi 894788
Dr. Salah Al Esoud 776273
Dr. Othman Mustafa 774024
Dr. Zein Zaghoul 635591
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 777746
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Nairoukh pharmacy 629672
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11:00 Bucharest (RJ)
11:05 Rome (RJ)
09:20 Baghdad (RJ)

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Directorate 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Rescue Police 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 198, 891228
Blood Bank 77303
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 639141
Public Security Directorate 721111
Hotel Complaints 656000 / 685111
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 12
Overseas Calls 17
Central Amman Telephone 17
Repairs 623301
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 721111
Radio Jordan 771111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 720 / 150
Garage 648411, 634381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Abdali Maternity, J. Amn 644412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642632
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsi 664171/4
Shamsi Hospital 669131
University Hospital 843845
Al-Muskar Hospital 667227/9

MARKET PRICES
Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apple 450 / 380
Banana 350 / 300
Banana (Makassar) 300 / 250
Beans 430 / 400
Cabbage 130 / 100
Carrots 280 / 220
Cauliflower 260 / 200
Cucumbers 300 / 240
Dates 650 / 550
Eggplant (large) 90 / 60
Eggplant (small) 200 / 150
Garlic 320 / 260
Grapefruit 170 / 130
Lemon 200 / 160
Marrow (large) 150 / 100
Marrow (small) 220 / 160
Orange (Shamouti) 320 / 260
Orange (local) 240 / 200
Onion (dry) 280 / 160
Pepper (hot) 320 / 260
Pepper (sweet) 320 / 260
Potato 280 / 200
Radish 120 / 100
Spinach 160 / 120
Mandarin 220 / 160
Tomatoes 350 / 300

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08:10 Bangkok (RJ)

WEATHER
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PRAYER TIMES

11:00 Country Music
11:30 Hissville: The story of Mission
12:00 News Summary
12:05 New Music
13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Session
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instruments
14:30 Comedy
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:05 Instruments
16:30 Old Favourites
17:00 Animal, Vegetable, Mineral
17:30 Good Vibrations
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Special Feature
18:30 Music
19:00 Newsdesk
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:05 Evening Show Cont'd.
21:50 Evening Show Cont'd.
22:00 News Summary
22:05 Evening Show Cont'd.
22:30 Race Carrot
24:00 Close Down

MUSEUMS
"Children's Heritage and Science Museum." Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.
Feldhaus Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.

CHURCHES
Assemblies of God Church, Jabal Luweideh, Tel. 637785.
St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luweideh, Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, Tel. 661757. Sunday English mass (summer time 6 p.m., winter time 5 p.m.).
Terra Sancta Church (Roman Catholic). Jabal Luweideh, mass in Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 623366.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, Tel. 625383, chaplain's residence Tel. 625643.
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 775261.
St. Barbara Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, Tel. 771751.
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FOR THE TRAVELLER
Good Shepherd's Church) Inter-denominational-cum-ecumenical English Service: Saturday 6:30 p.m. tel. 625605, Rev. Vell.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormon) Tel. 81587

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION: Jordan will take part in an international conference on education organised in Geneva by the United Nations Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), according to a statement by the council of ministers Wednesday. The statement said that a Jordanian delegation led by Minister of Education Thounan Hindawi and grouping representatives of the Ministries of Education and Higher Education will take part in the coming meeting which will open on Jan. 9, 1989. The coming meeting will discuss issues pertaining to education and means of advancing educational systems in UNESCO-member countries. (Petra)

SOCIETY FOR FAMILY PROTECTION: A special committee preparing for the establishment of National Society for Family Protection in Jordan announced Wednesday that it has finalised work on the statute of the projected society which will be charged with supervising the work of all branches in the country. According to Abdul Rahim Salem, Ministry of Social Development's assistant secretary general, new branches for the Jerusalem-based society will be allowed to open in various parts of the country. The society has branches operating in Amman, Irbid and Salt, and its members number around 300. (Petra)

TELEPHONE SERVICES: Progress on work to establish a centre to improve telephone services, operated by the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC), was inspected in Irbid Wednesday by TCC Director General and Swedish Ambassador to Jordan Lars Lonnback. Sweden is contributing to the project which aims to modernise the telephone services and to give advanced training to TCC personnel. A team of Swedish engineers and specialists are employed on the project alongside Jordanians, according to TCC officials here. The ambassador and the TCC director met with Irbid Governor Akram Al Nasser and discussed telephone services in the Irbid region. (Petra)

GOVERNMENT IMPOSES FINES: The military court Wednesday passed sentences imposing fines on a number of people following their violations of the supply law number 24 for the year 1974. The fines ranged from JD 10 to JD 150. If the fines are not paid then prison sentences will be imposed corresponding to the amounts of the fine. The military governor endorsed these sentences. (Petra)

DOCTORS GET CERTIFICATES: The Royal College of Surgeons in Glasgow Wednesday granted its highest fellowship scientific certificates to Jordanian doctors Lt.-General Dr. Dawood Hananiya and Lt.-Colonel Dr. Safwan Al Khasawneh from the Jordanian Armed Forces medical corps. The college dean and a number of staff members attended the ceremony. (Petra)

YOUTH ART: The Spanish ambassador in Amman Wednesday opened an art exhibition, at the Spanish Cultural Centre, entitled "The Youth Art." The exhibition contains 101 paintings by fifty Jordanian artists. The paintings depict various forms of social life in Jordan. The exhibition will run through Dec. 31. (Petra)

YWCA choir: A sound coming from the heart

By Jean-Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Continuing what has now become a tradition, the Young Women Christian Association (YWCA) community choir will give a series of concerts featuring Christmas carols and religious music. The choir will give three performances at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 9, 10 and 11.

Conducted by Karin J. Babab, its founder, the choir has grown to 55 members, some of them having been with the ensemble since its creation. Tania Naser, Roula Habash, Samia Channoum (pianist and assistant conductor) and some of new newcomers, Bernadette and Pierre Laballe, Gaetan de Troffog, as well as piano accompanist Joseph Hurlan Villadiego.

The YWCA choir delivers more than good music, they deliver genuine Christmas joy. The programme of this year includes well known carols, Arabic Christmas songs, traditional but also "heavier" numbers: selection

from two masses by Mozart, the Coronation Mass in C and the Missa Brevis in C.

For the known carols the audience will be invited to share Christmas spirit by singing with the choir "Silent Night," "Hallelujah" and "Child In A Manger." A beautiful "Ave Maria" written by the late Augustine Lama, in Jerusalem will be interpreted by soloist soprano Tania Naser.

MUSIC REVIEW

Attending a rehearsal of the choir and seeing their smile and obvious enthusiasm to work together on the non-profit project is believing in team work. For the last ten days preceding the concert, the group has been rehearsing every evening, and this in spite of the regular daily occupation of each of its members.

This intensive work seems rewarding, the result being heard as not only high quality choral sound but also very expressive and coming from the heart.

The YWCA choir, a group to follow up closely, and a series of concerts not to miss.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ A plastic art exhibition by eight Jordanian artists at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation in which more than 69 paintings are on display.
- ★ An exhibition on Aila, an Islamic medieval city, port of Palestine and the storehouse of Hijaz on the China Sea, at the Department of Antiquities' Registration and Research Centre.
- ★ A combined exhibit of watercolours, oil paintings and prints including works by: Fiyral Azami, Diana Shamounki, Rima Farah, and few other artists, with a display of wall hangings by Yvonne Yassine on popular Nursery Rhyme Themes at the Hotel Jordan Intercontinental Gallery.
- ★ An exhibition of drawings and watercolours of German Romanticism at the Fine Arts Department, the Yarmouk University.
- ★ The annual book exhibition of the Yarmouk University which includes academic, scientific and cultural books besides exhibiting dictionaries and scientific encyclopedias.
- ★ A Yugoslavian art exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ A military exhibition which displays military books, photos for His Majesty King Hussein, and paintings by several Jordanian artists at Jerash Municipality Library.
- ★ An art exhibition by Iraqi artist Latif Itawi at Al Wasiti Gallery for plastic art — 6:00 p.m.
- ★ An exhibition displaying Jordanian and Palestinian embroideries, children's toys, Christmas decorations, patchwork, appliques and cloth paintings at the Goethe Institute — 4:00 p.m.
- ★ An art exhibition by Friends of Plastic Art in Gulf countries at the National Gallery.
- ★ Museum of Jordanian Heritage. Ethnographic and archaeological display of the development of human civilisation in Jordan. At Yarmouk University, Irbid. Open daily, except Tuesday, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- ★ The youth's art exhibition which displays 101 paintings showing the different aspects of social life in Jordan at the Spanish Cultural Centre.

LECTURE

- ★ Mr. Ghani Shammih will talk on the anthropology of business, and the differences between trade climates in Britain and the Middle East at the British Council — 5:00 p.m.



Rifai, UAE minister discuss ties

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai conferred in his office Wednesday with Mr. Jassem Mohammad Al Khorafi, Finance Minister of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), on bilateral relations and means of boosting economic cooperation. Ministers of Finance,

Industry and Trade and Kuwait's ambassador to Jordan Suleiman Salem Al Fusan attended the meeting. Khorafi is taking part in the meeting of the Council of Arab Economic Unity in Amman.

Gulf artists to launch first exhibition in Jordan today

By Rania Atalla
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A group of 18 Arab artists from Gulf countries, the Gulf Corporation Council Art Friends (GCCAF), will launch their first exhibition of "plastic arts" in Jordan Thursday at the National Art Gallery under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma.

Established in October 1985, the GCCAF comprises 20 male and female artists from various Gulf countries who, though not constituting a "school of art" as such, bring together various experiences of art in the Gulf countries.

"We are still at the beginning of the road," said Yusef Ahmad, a member of the GCCAF. "We need to promote our work and expose it at the local, Arab and international levels."

Members of the GCCAF admit

their group represents a "sample" of artists in the Gulf area, and "not necessarily the best" artists. The 18 artists are graduates of institutions all over the world, from Moscow to the U.S., and from Cairo, Baghdad and Kuwait to Paris.

The group's exhibition in Jordan, which runs through Jan. 7, 1989, is the 12th in the region, the first one having taken place in Abu Dhabi. Members of the group have also displayed their work in Kuwait, Cairo, Tunis, and Spain.

"The GCCAF has given us the chance to meet, discuss issues, and make plans for the future," said artist Thurayya Al Qudsi who owns a gallery in Kuwait. "The distinctive feature of our group is that we have created rapprochement and cooperation among us, and we are constantly seeking to improve our standard," she added.

Arab Transport Bridge assembly to meet in Cairo

BAGHDAD (Petra) — The general assembly meeting of the Arab Maritime Bridge, which groups Iraq, Jordan and Egypt, will meet in Cairo Monday with the participation of the ministers of transport in the three countries, according to an announcement here Tuesday.

The announcement was made by Iraqi Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Mohammad Zubeidi who said that the meeting will be devoted to discussing a plan for expanding the company's operations and activities by land and sea, and increasing the company's fleet to cope with the

growing demand on transport between the three countries and with the Arab World.

Under tentative proposals within the expansion plan, trucks owned by people in the three countries can move freely between Egypt, Jordan and Iraq, transporting goods via the boat ferries operating between Aqaba and Nweibeh in Sinai, the minister said.

The coming meeting he said will discuss the prospect of transporting passengers as well as goods and vehicles to destinations in the three countries.

Egyptian universities admit required number of students

CAIRO (Petra) — Egyptian universities have admitted the required number of Jordanian students who have now embarked on their studies and there is no more room for additional numbers for the current academic year, according to the cultural attaché at the Jordanian embassy here, Fayez Rabieh.

Rabieh said that a special office operating in Cairo took charge of the registration of Jordanian students, and made arrangements for their accommodation upon their arrival in the Egyptian capital.

The students, Rabieh added,

have been oriented on the courses and examination systems in various universities by the office staff which worked under the supervision of the Jordanian embassy.

According to Rabieh, all students accepted for the 1988-1989 academic year at Egyptian universities had been nominated by the Ministry of Higher Education in Amman. The Egyptian minister of higher education, will pay a visit to Jordan shortly to sign an agreement with his Jordanian counterpart Nassereddin Al Assad on cooperation in higher education, Rabieh added.

Most displayed goods sold at Jordanian fair in Cairo

CAIRO (Petra, J.T.) — Most of the Jordanian national products displayed at the First Jordanian industrial fair in Cairo have been bought up by individuals and companies visiting the fair, and there is a prospect of extending the duration of the fair, which is due to end on Dec. 10, the fair director and economic councillor at the Jordanian embassy in Cairo, Mohammad Alawneh, announced Wednesday.

Alawneh said he was discussing with the Egyptian authorities the question of extension in view of the huge number of visitors to the fair and the great demand on Jordanian products.

A total of 120 Jordanian firms have displayed products at the fair which opened on Dec. 1, 1988, and according to a Jordanian-Egyptian agreement, the fair can sell up to \$2 million worth of products directly to the public or through contracts with Egyptian importers.

The fair displayed Jordanian

foodstuffs, paint, clothes, refrigerators, washing machines, sweets, detergents, car filters, gas ranges, insulating material, oriental ornaments, marble and glass products.

Alawneh said that in the first six days of the 10-day fair nearly all the clothing products, foodstuffs and sweets were sold out and only a few gas ranges, washing machines and refrigerators remained.

Jordanian and Egyptian businessmen and merchants held several meetings in Cairo and concluded a number of deals to import Jordanian products, according to Alawneh.

He said that attaches at Arab and foreign embassies in Cairo were among the visitors of the fair, which was opened by the Egyptian Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Yusri Mostafa.

The fair was the fourth of its kind to be held in Arab countries.

One artist summed up the effect of the group's work as follows: "Continued cooperation between Arab artists has filled a great gap that has been left vacant by politicians. We hope this is the beginning of the road towards more cooperation in the field of arts among Arab countries."

Another artist admitted that two years was too little time for the group to fully develop their thoughts and ideas. "We are now at the stage of proving our existence," the artist said. "Later on, we will develop our thought and artistic vision to be able to present them on both the Arab and international levels."

On Sunday, and at the same gallery, Saudi Arabian artist Munirah Muhsaly will talk about art in Saudi Arabia.

A friendly voice echoes the truth

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — To many, the modesty, characteristic of a man who has received world acclaim for his works on the Middle East, in particular on the plight of the Palestinian people, and who has contributed considerably to the promotion of the Palestinian cause in Britain and worldwide, remains an enigma.

One of the first Western voices to speak out on behalf of the Arabs, Michael Adams, was reluctant to tell about his accomplishments during a recent visit to Amman. In an interview with the Jordan Times, Adams preferred to skip details, as he related the events he lived and witnessed during 32 years in the region.

Becoming a journalist was Adams wish from a very young age, although he later obtained a bachelor's degree from Oxford University in history with emphasis on Italian history. However, becoming a full-time journalist in the Middle East was the farthest thing from Adams mind when he landed in the job of the Middle East correspondent for The Guardian in 1956. Immediately he was sent to cover the Suez Canal crisis. Prior to departure he asked his editor why he was chosen, "they told me that they wanted someone with an open mind."

Thirty six years at the time, Adams had already experienced much in life. He was a prisoner of war for four years in Germany during World War II. He had later travelled extensively in Europe, barely making ends meet. Although his living situation improved when he was offered a travel scholarship in the U.S., he witnessed the Kentucky trial, at the end of Senator Joseph McCarthy's drive against Communism which had an effect on his life. "Twenty years later I saw the same behaviours echoed in Palestine," he said.

These experiences "conjured up the injustice prevailing and the need to do something about it," said Adams. He goes into further detail on how the events he experienced led him to defend the Middle East in his book "The Untravelled World." Although the book was published in 1984, it only covers Middle East history up to the Suez Canal crisis. "The idea (of the book) was to answer to those people who ask why I have taken such stands on the Middle East," he said.

In fact Adams pro-Arab stand was a major factor behind The Guardian's loss of 30,000 to 40,000 of its readers in 1956. The newspaper, which only had a circulation of 180,000, was printed in Manchester — the city in England with the largest Jewish population. From the first

PTC honours employees for distinguished services

AMMAN (Petra) — A group of 22 employees working for the Public Transport Corporation (PTC) were Wednesday honoured and offered awards for their distinguished efforts, which reflected very positively on the PTC's operations in the current year.

The 22 employees include bus drivers, technicians and workers, as well as those doing administrative jobs for the corporation.

They were all presented with financial awards, and certificates of merit, in addition to annual allowances.

The awards were presented to the honoured group by Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan at a ceremony attended by a number of officials.

On the occasion, the minister delivered a speech paying tribute to the workers "who did their best to serve the public and their own corporation."

"Through their strenuous efforts, these employees were able to contribute positively to the improvement of the corporation's standard of services and helped the PTC to raise sufficient revenues to pay off its loans," the minister said.

Indeed, the PTC's achievements are a source of pride for the country as a whole," the minister added.

PTC Director General

Mohammad Jamil Abul Tayyeb

said in a speech that honouring

the 22-member group manifests

the country's concern over the

workers and its appreciation of

their achievements.

The PTC this year was able to reduce the deficit in its budget to zero and was able to pay off all the loans and their interests to the banks after purchasing spare parts for the buses, Abul Tayyeb noted.

He voiced hope that the coming years will witness further modernisation of the PTC vehicles.

Abul Tayyeb noted that the PTC is now planning to fix accurate timing for the buses operating on all routes within the capital, and a schedule list of the dates and timing for each route will be distributed free of charge to the public.

Haj Hassan said in a statement later that the PTC will be transformed into a public shareholding company by the beginning of 1989 with the government owning the shares of its capital through its affiliated organisations.

He said that the members of the public will be allowed to own shares in the PTC at a later stage.

Jordanian-Omani committee to meet in Muscat next month

AMMAN (J.T.) — The joint Jordanian-Omani Economic Committee will hold a meeting in Muscat in the first week of the coming month to review the process of economic cooperation between the two countries.

The Jordanian team to the talks will be led by Minister of Industry and Trade Hamdi Tabbaa who will discuss with the Omani officials means of boosting the volume of trade and ways to strengthen and expand economic ties, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Tabbaa, the agency said, will be accompanied by representatives of the Amman Chambers of Industry and Commerce, as well

as the Federation of the Jordanian Chambers of Commerce and the Jordanian Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company (JAMPCO).

Last year, the joint committee held a meeting in Amman when it agreed on a number of measures designed to boost trade, and to hold trade fairs in the course of their cooperation.

Minutes signed at the end of the talks called for providing the necessary facilities for increasing the volume of Jordanian agricultural exports to Oman and for assisting the Omani side in marketing Omani agricultural produce in neighbouring Arab states.

The minutes also provided for Jordan to offer training to Omani personnel in tourism, and sending Jordanian experts to train Omani in Muscat.

In accordance with the minutes, a Jordanian industrial fair was organised in Muscat last January, with 63 Jordanian firms displaying samples of their products. It was the second fair of its kind to be held in Oman.

Last April, an Omani delegation visited Jordan and signed an economic cooperation protocol which aimed at enhancing ties between the two countries, especially in launching joint ventures in Jordan.

territories is being sponsored by the trust at the refugee studies programme at Oxford University in order to return to establish a similar institute at Al Najah.

These collective and individual efforts have contributed to publishing Israeli behaviour towards Palestinians and Palestinian resistance in Britain. "The mood in England has changed due to many things. But democracy works slowly in England and influencing the public opinion will hopefully change government policy."

Since 1967 Adams has been visiting the occupied territories on a yearly basis. Although he was questioned by the Israeli authorities and refused a press card the first two years, he has relatively no difficulty in entering the West Bank and Gaza.

Lately, he has been meeting

more Israelis, in particular journalists. He believes that hope lies in these people. "There are enough intelligent people in Israel to realise that the situation can't continue."

"As critical as I am of Israeli policy, especially today, I am more critical of U.S. policy," he says, citing a book written by Israeli ex-army intelligence chief General Mordechai Harkabi entitled, "Israel's Fateful Decisions" which basically accuses the U.S. for allowing the Israeli to "do anything (and get away with it)."

Opening the eyes of

Americans

Although he considers the American society "uneducated in politics" he believes that if they have the facts, "they can see that they are accomplices and they can come up with a solution, but the problem is that they haven't had all the facts."

The ongoing intifada has removed the blindfolds from some American eyes and has given Palestinians the incentive to advocate a two state solution, a solution previously advocated by only a few.

Despite these changes, Adams believes that it will take at least another 50 years for the U.S. government to change its policy and to accept a two state solution, which although he considers to be unsatisfactory, he sees as the only feasible solution in today's circumstances.

"It will become increasingly difficult for the Americans to continue paying \$1,000 for every Israeli born and still in his mother's womb," he said, adding sadly that the situation could be brought to an end quickly, "if people were more sensible and would realise the futility of destruction."

Two other books Adams has written are "Suez and After" (1958) and "Umbria" on Italy (1964).

During the 1970's Adams was active in speaking to student audiences, completing a book with Mayhew entitled "Publish It Not" (1975) and editing "Handbook to the Middle East" (1971). A second edition, he worked on, has been published this year.

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One year old and growing

TODAY marks the first anniversary of the Palestinian uprising. On this very day last year, the spark of the Palestinian revolt in the West Bank and Gaza Strip was touched off by the deliberate ramming of Palestinians in Gaza by an Israeli military truck causing the death of four. In fact the Palestinian intifada had started the very day the Israeli armed forces occupied the West Bank and Gaza Strip back in 1967 and had been simmering ever since. Since that fateful day last year, however, the Palestinian struggle against Israeli occupation has been assuming ever new dimensions and intensity ranging from becoming the deepest ever sustained revolt against Israeli occupation and oppression to the strongest ever assertion of Palestinian identity on Palestinian soil.

In addition to defying all Israeli expectations that the uprising would fizzle out and dissipate in a matter of few weeks, the Palestinian stone throwers and freedom torch carriers continued their heroic defiance of the Israeli war machine till this day and will continue till they achieve freedom. Indeed much harder than the stones hurled at the Israeli occupying forces is the iron will of the Palestinian people to wage a relentless contest against Israeli occupation and oppression till complete liberty and self-determination are realised.

True, the casualty list on the Palestinian side in terms of lives and sufferings has been high over the past year. But the price could even become higher in the days and months that lie ahead as long as Israel persists in ignoring and rejecting the legitimate yearnings and aspirations of the Palestinian people. Conversely, the struggling Palestinians have not refrained from making peaceful overtures to the Israelis and have not stopped sending signals at great risks to the unity of their ranks that they seek honourable peace and security for all sides. Alas, nothing positive and encouraging whatsoever has been forthcoming from the Israeli side in return for the genuine offers for peace by the Arab side for durable peace in the Middle East. Instead, the Israeli side maintained the rendition of their sterile rejection of all genuine Arab offers to engage them in a fruitful dialogue under the aegis of the United Nations on the basis of internationally accepted norms and standards as enunciated by the United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 and 338.

Certainly all Arabs from the Atlantic to the Gulf and all freedom and peace-loving peoples of the world should salute the struggling Palestinians on this solemn day and should renew their pledges to honour their commitments to them till their rights and aspirations are fully restored. There is no going back, for the bells of freedom have tolled in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

THE theme of an editorial in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Wednesday was: the Arab situation in the wake of the Iraqi victory in the Gulf conflict and in the light of the ongoing uprising in the occupied Arab territories. The paper said that thanks to King Hussein's efforts, inter-Arab relations are now progressing and solidarity among Arab states is at its best. The favourable situation in the inter-Arab relations is bound to help the nation confront the conspiracies hatched by the U.S.-Israeli alliance; and close coordination among Arab leaders is bound to help their masses deal with any new challenges, the paper said. The paper referred to the continued displacement of the Palestinian people and the injustice done to them over the past four decades as a result of the U.S.-Zionist conspiracies, and said that this alliance is not only bent on perpetuating this injustice, but is determined to manifest hostility from America and Israel towards the Arab Nation to its extreme. The paper said the Arab Nation is now self-confident and determined to pursue all endeavours for further successes and for foiling the conspiracies.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily discusses Saudi Arabian-Soviet relations which, despite the absence of formal diplomatic ties, the two sides seem to be handling their mutual affairs in a very satisfactory manner. Mahmood Al Rimawi notes that Saudi Arabia had played host to the negotiations over the situation in Afghanistan; and lately, King Fahd received the Soviet deputy foreign minister, a move that can only indicate the good relations binding the two countries. It is a well-known fact that Saudi Arabia and the Soviet Union have had no diplomatic ties since 1939, but this does not prevent Riyadh to maintain its economic and even military cooperation with Moscow for the benefit of the two countries, Rimawi continues. The writer expresses the opinion that formal relations with Moscow are ruled out for the present; but the channels of communication are now open wide for mutual cooperation, benefitting the Soviet Union and the Arab World.

Al Dastour daily describes Prince Hassan's visit to Baghdad on Tuesday as part of Jordan's continued efforts to bolster mutual cooperation in all matters of concern to the Arab Nation. The paper described Iraqi-Jordanian ties as exemplary and based on mutual respect and cooperation, reflecting the pan-Arab orientation by the two leaderships and serving as model for other Arab states. The past few years witnessed real progress in the mutual relations in economic, political and commercial fields, and served as the best manifestation of what successes close coordination can achieve for the two parties, the paper noted.

Sawt Al Shaab wrote also on Prince Hassan's visit to Baghdad where he delivered a message from King Hussein to the Iraqi president on current Arab issues and bilateral cooperation. The visit at this stage comes within the framework of inter-Arab cooperation in support of the Palestinian people and the PLO in the struggle to regain usurped rights, the paper noted. It said that King Hussein is spearheading pan-Arab efforts in support of the Palestinians and also for the sake of ensuring the convening of an international conference to help bring peace to the Middle East. The King, for this sake, is now enlisting the active participation of Iraq which came out victorious from the Gulf conflict and Egypt has lent continued support to pan-Arab causes, the paper added.

By Muhammad Hallaj

Dr. Hallaj is Director of the Palestine Research and Educational Centre in Washington, D.C., and the editor of the monthly magazine Palestine Perspectives. The article is reprinted from the spring issue of American Arab Affairs magazine.

TENSIONS in occupied Palestine simmered throughout 1987 and reached the boiling point at the end of the year approached. In the fall, the Arab Studies Society in Jerusalem reported 17 "political killings" from the beginning of the year to the middle of September. It also reported 129 serious injuries, seven expulsions, 105 new administrative-detention orders, 77 town arrests, 50 curfews, 48 closures of Palestinian institutions, and 86 house demolitions and sealings. The report concluded that Israeli violence in the occupied territories — steadily increasing since 1983 — indicated that "1987 may prove to be as bloody as 1982." The report prophetically added that "it is important to note that nearly half of all serious injuries and one quarter of all killings by occupation forces in 1986 occurred in the last month of the year (December)."

Throughout the year, warning signs of an impending explosion multiplied. The media, in Israel and elsewhere, repeatedly called attention to this fact. On October 14, the Jerusalem Post editorialised that Israel was sitting on a volcano. "The image of a country living in the shadow of a volcano is not inappropriate for Israel today," it wrote.

The expected finally happened. The seething tensions in occupied Palestine erupted in early December 1987 and quickly spread to become the most intense, general and sustained uprising in 20 years of Israeli occupation, and the most costly. At the time of this writing (in the middle of April 1988), the uprising was in its fifth month. More than 140 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli soldiers and settlers, and more than 1,000 have been wounded. More than 5,000 (some estimates say more than 10,000) people were detained — in some cases whole families — and processed through "assembly-line justice," provoking a strike by lawyers who found themselves unable to protect the due-process rights of their clients.

Places of worship and hospitals were invaded and teargassed, the wounded were seized from their hospital beds and doctors and nurses were roughed up as they tried to protect their patients. Curfews were imposed on whole towns and refugee camps for extended periods, causing food shortages. Women who defied the curfew to forage for food for their families were frequently beaten and their food supplies destroyed. U.N. trucks carrying food for besieged refugee populations were turned back. Twelve Palestinians were deported, and a number of others waited to follow them as Israel defied a unanimous U.N. Security Council resolution against its policy of deportation.

A policy of indiscriminate and brutal beatings was approved by the Israeli government, giving license to Israeli soldiers to break into homes and beat up people. By the end of January, Al Fajr newspaper reported from Jerusalem (January 31, 1988) that more than 427 Palestinians had been hospitalised as the result of beating with clubs and rifle butts, many of them with broken bones. UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency) sources said that 127 others were treated in UNRWA clinics, and many more were treated in private clinics. Foreign correspondents reported that some victims refused to seek medical help, fearing arrest. Four Palestinians were beaten nearly to death and buried alive. They were discovered and rescued by residents after the troops had left the scene, alerted by the victims' shouts for help.

A number of unborn infants died when tear gas caused miscarriages, of which more than 40 cases were reported by Gaza hospitals. Fatalities were reported as the result of the beatings policy. The entire school system in the occupied territories was ordered shut down indefinitely. News censorship reached a peak when in March the West Bank and Gaza were declared closed areas and the media were forbidden access to them. The Palestine Press Service in Jerusalem was ordered closed for six months.

As confrontations often do, the recent uprising in the occupied territories was transformed as it progressed. From a limited expression of protest provoked by a specific event, it quickly grew into a popular revolt against the whole concept and system of foreign military rule.

It began as a spontaneous outburst of anger at the death of four Palestinians on December 8, 1987, when their vehicles were rammed by an Israeli army truck at a military roadblock in Gaza. The following day, the funerals for the dead Palestinians turned into protest marches when Israeli soldiers responded with lethal force, more Palestinians died, grief turned into anger and protest escalated to a mass uprising.

The confrontation grew more violent. Palestinians pelted Israeli soldiers with rocks and bottles and bits of metal, and on some occasions attacked them with knives. Three months into the uprising, an Israeli soldier was shot dead in Bethlehem in the first incident of Palestinian use of firearms against the occupation army. Palestinian protesters blocked streets with rocks and burning tires to impede Israeli troop movement, and the skies darkened with black smoke. The occupied territories came to an economic standstill as workers stayed away from jobs and a commercial strike paralysed commerce. The area increasingly acquired the appearance of a war zone.

The uprising quickly spilled out of the Gaza Strip, where it had begun, into Jerusalem and the rest of the occupied West Bank. For a brief period, it reached Arab towns and neighbourhoods in Israel in a show of Palestinian unity never witnessed before. And it touched all sectors of the population: young and old, men and women, Muslims and Christians, towns and refugee camps. The uprising increasingly became a Palestinian popular revolt against Israeli rule.

A new phenomenon

The uprising signals the advent of a new phase in Palestinian resistance to the Israeli occupation and a qualitative change in the Israeli-Palestinian relationship. Although everything the Palestinians had done in the uprising (stoning soldiers, setting up road-blocks, commercial strikes) they had done before, and although everything the Israelis had done (shooting demonstrators, demolishing homes, curfews, beating and teargassing protesters, roundups and deportations) they had done before, the totality of the event was unprecedented. It bears out the prevailing view that a new and more effective pattern of resistance has evolved in the Israeli-occupied territories. In specific terms, the uprising reveals the following symptoms of a more mature Palestinian challenge to Israel's notion of permanent occupation:

1. It shows increased capacity to mobilise the population under occupation. Never before had participation been so widespread. It involved all geographic areas and all segments of the population. From one end of the country to the other, Palestinians responded to the same provocations, used the same methods, voiced the same demands and suffered the same retribution. Moreover, Palestinians from Sidon to San Francisco responded to the anguish of their people in the occupied territories with protests and aid, demonstrating the continued viability of the concept of Palestinian nationhood. This show of solidarity refutes the view that Palestinian national ties have been weakened by the disparate conditions of the Palestinian people's scattered existence.

The heightened solidarity was also shown by the failure of traditional Israeli methods to weaken and contain Palestinian protests by creating divisions within Palestinian ranks (e.g., students vs. merchants), and by infiltrating agents and informers to identify leaders and intentions. This time, Palestinian ranks proved resistant to division and penetration, a fact which diminished Israel's ability to control and subdue the uprising.

The great number of casualties and their indiscriminate nature antagonised segments of the population not previously noted for political activism, further strengthening the unity of a community under siege.

2. The uprising is unprecedented in the level of defiance to superior force. The courage displayed by unarmed protesters in close encounter with armed and trigger-happy soldiers — authorised to be brutal — testifies to the erosion of Israel's ability to

Revolt in occupied Palestine

intimidate. Israel's resort to excessive lethal force to deal with protests reflects its recognition of bolder Palestinian resistance. Coercion replaced intimidation as the primary instrument of control.

This increased capacity to defy the occupation forces is also reflected in the unprecedented duration of the uprising. At the time of writing the uprising was in its fifth month and continuing, making it by far the longest Palestinian confrontation with Israel.

3. The Palestinians under occupation demonstrated a greater ability to bear greater hardships and to absorb greater losses, human and material, than they had done before. The number of known Palestinian fatalities so far would be equivalent to more than 20,000 dead in a country the size of the United States. Put another way, Palestinian deaths would be equivalent to more than a third of all fatalities suffered by American forces in 10 years of war in Vietnam. The number of wounded would exceed 150,000, and the number of detainees would be a million or more. This is a staggering level of loss to be sustained in a matter of a few months.

5. The uprising in the occupied territories — by using less controversial means of resistance — had a greater impact on world opinion than any previous act of Palestinian resistance. Even countries which had shown less sensitivity during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982 were moved to object to Israel's ruthless brutality. The U.S. government, which had not supported any U.N. condemnation of Israel during or subsequent to the invasion of Lebanon, broke a six-year moratorium on the see-no-evil, hear-no-evil and speak-no-evil policy it had pursued regarding Israel. It voted in support of a Security Council resolution against the deportation of Palestinians and publicly criticised Israel's excessive use of lethal force. True, the vote signalled no change in general policy, but it attests to the irresistible moral pressure created by the resolve and anguish of a captive community. Press coverage was more extensive and factual than in any previous clash between Arabs and Israelis.

6. The uprising manifested greater spontaneity in the Palestinian confrontation with the occupation. Although it is fallacious to conclude — as some have done — that the uprising revealed the irrelevance of the PLO to events in the occupied territories, the fact is that the manner in which the uprising began and spread indicates greater local initiative and direction, and greater decentralisation in the leadership and diversification in the political forces involved. No leadership or organisation could be identified and punished, intimidated or co-opted, a fact which accounts for the durability of the insurrection and Israel's evident confusion about its causes and the means of containing it.

The uprising also revealed the error of the view that the Palestinians under occupation are helpless victims waiting to be rescued, a view often used to justify making unreasonable concessions to Israel. The uprising demonstrates that the people in the occupied territories ought to be viewed and treated as partners in the struggle for their liberation.

The fact that the uprising has shown creativity in blending traditional methods of PLO leadership with local initiative may prove to be one of the most significant contributions to more effective and sustained Palestinian resistance to the occupation.

7. The uprising has shown a strategy of resistance that goes beyond the expression of anger. The mass resignation of Palestinian policemen and tax collectors indicates a strategy to undo the system of control that the Israeli military government had instituted over a period of 20 years. It is the first practical countermeasure to Israel's policy of de facto annexation. Added to a spreading boycott of the Israeli economy and cleaning up the network of Israeli informers and collaborators, it is bound to weaken Israel's hold on the occupied territories and to raise its cost.

The cumulative outcome of these factors is a modified environment in the occupied territories, and a new tone in the harsh discourse between the occupier and the occupied. It augurs an era in the Palestinian-Israeli relationship in which Israel can no longer count on docile and easily intimidated subjects in its colonies. Israel has never come so close to losing control in the occupied territories.

The uprising also threatens the Israeli illusion that indigenous resistance is the product of external provocation and manipulation rather than the product of homegrown injustices and grievances. More significant for the future, such a massive revolt — even if it is subdued — cannot be uprooted. The uprising, therefore, promises sequels if the political issues involved are not resolved. It confirms the conclusion of the foreign ministers of the

Our burning soul

By Sana Atiyeh

HAPPY BIRTHDAY. Happy birthday to a people who have proven with the stones of their land (and there are so many) that their will to live independently and democratically is supreme.

Happy birthday to the oppressed children of Palestine who are fully aware of their basic rights as human beings, to the children who have known nothing but foreign and brutal military occupation, who demand freedom with their slingshots.

Happy birthday to the young men and women who sacrifice the most precious thing they own, their lives, to liberate themselves from humiliation and to make it possible for their folk to live in dignity.

Happy birthday to the mothers who conceive and multiply their children to continue and stay on the land their ancestors had ploughed and inhabited.

Happy birthday to the elderly who teach the young to love, protect and defend the land that brought them to the world.

Happy birthday to a people who made their voice heard all over the globe, to a people who have done more for their freedom than anyone else has done for them in the history of the Palestinian struggle against foreign occupation, to a people who are fighting for all Palestinians everywhere.

What can we do but sympathise with the families and friends of the 400 martyrs — mostly young children who will never witness a free Palestine, to people who have witnessed occupation of their land and died hoping their grandchildren's future would be brighter — whose blood brightened the holy earth during the past year; and the tens of thousands of those who have been wounded, many of whom permanently handicapped.

What can we do but sympathise with the dozens of young pregnant mothers who lost their babies to the fumes of American-made tear gas, before they could bear their first cry.

We had the courage of the more than 20,000 who have withstood the heat and the freezing winds of detention camps, the overcrowdedness, humiliating and had treatment and the torture inflicted upon them during the Israel's infamous "interrogation" during the past 12 months.

What can we do but try to agonise with the feeling of people being continuously locked up in their homes for days when the curfews are imposed, with children denied education for most of the year, and with the homeless, the 40 some families whose homes were demolished. We can only understand the feeling of the 34 who were deported from their country, for many of us have been dispersed and dispossessed for too long.

The Israelis have tried everything they can think of to stifle the intifada; they have demolished homes, deported people, buried Palestinians alive, broken limbs and bones, shot at both children and adults with real bullets, rubber bullets, and lately plastic bullets; they have spent millions of dollars worth of American tear gas canisters, and they even tried a new machine that sprays pellets and stones at demonstrators. And now after a six-year ban, Reagan agreed to sell cluster bombs to Israel "provided they are not used against civilians," (but who's asking?).

But nothing, nothing has stopped the people. And they shall continue until their demands are met, until the rest of the world works towards their God-given rights, until they live on their independent homeland. And while we cringe at our helplessness, the occupied are fighting for their right to live in independence, and for all dispersed Palestinians' right to return.

Today marks the first birthday of the sacred intifada, the first anniversary of the birth of a new era, a new hope for Palestinians everywhere.

God bless every man, woman and child who has thrown a stone and cried for freedom. You are in our hearts and minds, and after 12 months (and who ever thought your blessed rebellion would last long enough to celebrate an annual anniversary?) you are in our souls. You are our souls.

European Community, stated in their recent Bonn Declaration, that "the status quo in the occupied territories is not sustainable."

Lessons of the uprising

The uprising carries messages to every party involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict, adversaries as well as third parties interested in its management and resolution. Understood properly, these messages call for rethinking old strategies; revising old concepts and reforming old habits and methods of dealing with the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Among these lessons of the uprising are the following:

1. The Palestine question is still a volatile issue, and it is still capable of exploding with undiminished intensity. After four decades, it ought to be clear that this is one conflict that cannot be buried alive or entrusted to the healing powers of time alone.

There are two main reasons why time has been a poor healer of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. One, the injustices which had ignited the conflict in the first place (dispossession and displacement of the Palestinian people) are reoccurring continually in the occupied territories. Palestinians are still being dispossessed and expelled, and they continue to be subjected to a variety of other daily reminders that their survival as a people is threatened. The Palestinians, in other words, are not obstinately nursing an ancient grudge. They do not rebel to avenge an ancient injustice. They rebel against an unending grievance. Continuing injustice provokes continuing resistance.

Furthermore, the hardships of life in exile are also a constant reminder that in this age of nation-states, a stateless nation is exposed and vulnerable without the services and protection of a national state. The continued denial of self-determination to the Palestinians repeatedly emerges as a constant peril. The uprising is a reminder that the conflict has not vanished and is not likely to vanish unaided. It is also a reminder that Palestinian self-determination is not an abstract principle but a social need which, if it remains unfulfilled, will continue to trouble the lives of the Palestinians and beset the region.

2. The uprising reaffirms and further clarifies significant aspects of the internal Palestinian political dynamics, particularly the Palestinian-PLO relationship. It challenges the two contradictory — yet widely held — views that the Palestine question is the product of PLO imagination or agitation, and conversely that the PLO is an irrelevant external and self-proclaimed and imposed Palestinian leadership.

The spontaneity of the uprising and the evident initiative of the people under occupation confirm that the conflict is inspired by intrinsic grievances and not by extrinsic manipulation. It is the product of indigenous conditions, rather than external influences. It reaffirms the fact that the PLO is the effect rather than the cause of the Palestine question, and that the attempts (military and political) to suppress the PLO attack the symptoms but fail to address the causes of the conflict.

The uprising also reveals the fallacy of the contrary view that the PLO is obsolete or irrelevant to the Palestinian condition. This view erroneously pictures the PLO as a distant club for Palestinian exiles, in order to justify excluding it from efforts to resolve the fate of the occupied territories. The fact that the uprising was spontaneous explosion of protest sparked by a local provocation is used to advance this view.

Subsequent events, however, affirmed the organic relationship which binds the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation and elsewhere to their national liberation movement. Observers have noted that even though the outbreak of the protest was a spontaneous response to a local provocation, its evolution into a sustained and obviously coordinated uprising demonstrated the existence of organisation and leadership. To assume that the network of PLO activists and supporters in the occupied territories — the most experienced and politically aware segment of the population — played the role of spectators as the entire population was engulfed in the uprising is to assume the most unlikely scenario. Telltale signs — such as the appearance of Arafat's photographs and the Palestinian flag in the hands of protesters, and political leaflets in the streets — contradict the allegation of PLO irrelevance in the occupied territories.

The emergence of the "Unified National Command of the Uprising," an underground leadership consisting of a coalition of PLO and other nationalist local groups, and its role in directing the struggle through leaflets and other means, indicates a transition to organised resistance and reveals the PLO's ability to respond to and interact with the people under occupation.

These two contradictory conceptions of "outside meddling" and PLO irrelevance are politically inspired by detractors of Palestinian nationalism. The view that Palestinian unrest is the product of "outside agitation" is intended to convey the impression that the Palestinian issue is a fictitious conflict which is best ignored; and the view of the PLO as irrelevant to that conflict reinforces the idea that the PLO can be safely bypassed in the debate over the Palestinian future. The uprising questions both of these views.

3. The uprising exposed Israel's addiction to mythology and its propensity to evade unpleasant reality in its dealings with the Palestinians. Israel explained the uprising as PLO agitation, as the work of Muslim fundamentalists, and as a show staged for the benefit of the media; anything to avoid facing the simple fact that people have always and everywhere rebelled against foreign military rule. It represents the dying gasp of the old Israeli myth about benevolent and humane occupation, according to which resistance to it would be illogical and in need of contorted explanations.

Further signs of Israel's incurable dependence on mythology to cope with the consequences of its behaviour include: 1) explaining shooting unarmed protesters as the democratic method of riot control; 2) the resort to a barbaric policy of indiscriminate beating as the merciful indication to avoid fatalities; 3) and deportation as the humane substitute for executions. All of these claims were made in behalf of Israel's mad response to unarmed political protest.

The Israeli addiction to mythology to avoid unpleasant facts demonstrates Israel's inherent incapacity, without external prodding, to do what is necessary to achieve peace in the Middle East. It shows that Israel needs to be educated in the virtues of facing reality, including the fact that the Palestinians are "here to stay."

4. Another lesson of the uprising is the fragility of the Israeli "peace camp" and its inadequacy as a potential influence on Israeli public opinion and public policy. This fact is possibly the most unexpected and significant lesson about Israeli society revealed by the uprising.

The peace camp in Israel had for several years presented itself as the true Israeli conscience and as the most viable alternative to present policy. Yet, the clearest signal it had sent to the Palestinian protesters — whose objective of ending the occupation it professes to share — was that they were strengthening support for the Israeli right, and that their resistance to the occupation was undermining the Israeli peace camp.

Logically, the Palestinian uprising should have been the Israeli peace camp's opportunity to drive home its professed belief that the occupation is harmful to Israel as well as unjust to the Palestinians, and that its termination is the *sine qua non* of Arab-Israeli conciliation. Instead, the peace camp blamed the Palestinians for standing up to the Israeli occupation, as if their submission would strengthen the forces and prospects of peace.

The behaviour of the Israeli peace movement revealed the strength of the Israeli propensity to play victim even in the most unlikely circumstances.

An Israeli army commander confessed that he did not feel good when he woke up in the morning. That is understandable. The Israeli ruling establishment decided to dispatch a team of psychologists to the occupied territories to counsel Israeli soldiers so that they could sleep at night. That is also understandable. What is less understandable is the Israeli peace camp's blaming Palestinian protest against the occupation for its failure to stem the rising tide of Israeli extremism. The Israeli peace camp's credibility depends on its ability to enlighten Israeli society about the perils of continued occupation rather than on its contribution to the chorus against its victims and their resistance to that occupation.

(Continued on page 7)

EN BREF

Le Roi à Londres

Le Roi Hussein a effectué en début de semaine une visite privée au Royaume-Uni, où il a notamment eu des entretiens avec Margaret Thatcher. Le Roi, s'adressant aux étudiants de Cambridge, a insisté sur l'urgence d'une conférence internationale pour la paix au Proche-Orient, estimant que les Palestiniens "assument leurs responsabilités dans l'oppression d'une paix sincère et juste". Il a mis en garde contre un pourrissement de la situation, selon lui directement menaçant pour la paix dans le monde, particulièrement en raison de l'arsenal nucléaire israélien et sa récente acquisition d'un satellite.

Israël: toujours pas de gouvernement

Le premier ministre israélien, Itzhak Shamir, a obtenu le 5 décembre une prolongation de trois semaines pour former un gouvernement. En lui octroyant ce délai, le président Chaim Herzog a appelé de ses vœux un gouvernement de coalition avec la participation du parti travailliste de Shimon Peres. Aucun des deux grands partis n'avait en début de semaine obtenu la majorité suffisante à la Knesset pour gouverner seul. Le Likoud semblait cependant avoir plus d'atout pour rassembler autour de lui les petits partis religieux. Mais le parti Agudat Moshav, cherchant son soutien, courtisé à la fois par le Likoud et une partie des travaillistes. Le parti travailliste est divisé à la fois sur l'opportunité de négocier avec le parti religieux et sur celle de participer à un gouvernement de coalition.

Rencontre Arafat-Juifs

Le président de l'OLP Yasser Arafat a rencontré le 6 décembre un groupe de Juifs américains à Stockholm, grâce à une entremise du gouvernement suédois. La délégation de cinq Juifs était principalement composée de membres du Centre international pour la paix au Proche-Orient, une coalition de groupes de gauche en Israël et à l'étranger, qui préconise l'abandon par Israël des territoires occupés depuis 1967.

France: paralysies

La situation a encore empiré le 2 décembre à Paris au cinquième jour de paralysie du réseau express régional (RER) qui transporte en temps ordinaire plus d'un million d'habitants des banlieues vers leur lieu de travail. Les véhicules militaires et les cars privés mis à la disposition des usagers ont pu transporter quelque 220.000 personnes durant la journée de jeudi mais la capitale était bloquée vendredi par les embouteillages. A cette grève est venue s'ajouter celle menée par quatre syndicats minoritaires du métro parisien, augmentant encore le chaos. Des mouvements étaient en préparation pour cette semaine dans d'autres secteurs.

Vous écrivez?

"Le Jourdain" recherche des collaborateurs ayant des idées originales d'enquêtes et reportages, en free-lance. Contacter le Jordan Times et demander François Ducroux.

Le saviez-vous? Arafat gaulliste

Dans une interview publiée la semaine dernière par l'hebdomadaire Paris-Match, Yasser Arafat a révélé en déboulonnant sa chemise qu'il portait en permanence une médaille de la croix de Lorraine, selon lui offerte par le général de Gaulle en personne. Arafat, qui dit vouloir un "grand respect" au défunt chef d'Etat, ajoute qu'il correspondrait régulièrement avec lui à la fin de sa vie. "Y a-t-il parmi les Israéliens un nouveau de Gaulle, qui accepte de s'asseoir à la table des négociations?", a-t-il dit, faisant référence au règlement du conflit algérien. Autre fétiche d'Arafat, son keffiyeh: selon une journaliste proche de l'OLP, sa façon unique de le porter donne à son buste une forme de carte de la Palestine, pointes en haut et en bas.

Interview d'un représentant de l'OLP à Amman

Intifada: un an, l'âge mûr

"Haj" Khaled Mousmar, chef de la cellule d'information de l'OLP à Amman, retrace les grandes lignes du soulèvement palestinien et en dégage les conséquences. J.T.: Comment a démarré l'Intifada?

K.M.: La première journée de manifestations spontanées dans l'ensemble des territoires occupés et des villes conquises en 1948 a eu lieu le 9 décembre 1987. Il y a exactement un an. Ce jour-là, les troupes israéliennes ont tué deux Palestiniens et en ont blessé 28. Ce soulèvement généralisé faisait suite à la mort, la veille, de trois Arabes, tués dans la collision entre un camion israélien et deux véhicules transportant des travailleurs palestiniens à Gaza. Le bruit a couru que l'accident avait été délibéré de la part des Israéliens, en réponse au meurtre d'un colon à Gaza deux jours plus tôt. Il faut préciser que dès octobre, une vague de grèves et de manifestations s'était répandue dans les territoires occupés. Les Israéliens et les observateurs dans le monde pensaient que le mouvement s'essoufferait au bout de quelques jours ou quelques semaines, comme les précédents mouvements de protestation. Aujourd'hui encore, les pierres pleuvent...

On a dit que l'insurrection avait pris l'OLP de cours, qu'il constituait une douche froide pour la centrale palestinienne jugée trop passive par les Palestiniens de l'intérieur.

Certes, le mouvement n'était pas concerté au départ. Mais la critique que vous évoquez, souvent formulée par les journaux arabes eux-mêmes, est injustifiée: dès leurs premiers communiqués, les dirigeants "intérieurs" de l'Intifada ont clamé haut et fort leur attachement à l'OLP en tant que leader des Palestiniens. Au début du soulèvement, Abou Jihad (assassiné par les Israéliens le 15 avril à Tunis, NDR) était à Amman. Je me souviens de ses coups de téléphone à Chypre, pour entrer en contact avec les insurgés à Gaza et en Cisjordanie, pour leur donner des consignes. C'est lui qui pilotait le mouvement. L'OLP n'est restée inactive, loin de là. Elle verse aujourd'hui



"La balle est maintenant dans le camp d'Israël"

beaucoup d'argent aux Palestiniens de l'intérieur, par exemple pour payer les salaires des agents publics ou des bourses à des étudiants qui veulent partir dans les universités étrangères.

Comment expliquer l'importance des jeunes, des enfants et des femmes dans les affrontements? Vu leurs conditions de vie dans les territoires occupés, leur avenir bouché, les jeunes ont l'énergie du désespoir. Plus rien à perdre. Et comme les enfants montaient en première ligne, leurs mères voulaient être là en cas d'arrestation, pour les défendre. Quant aux pères, ils étaient plus prudents au départ, devant la répression. Je me souviens de l'un d'entre eux qui avait un statut de réfugié et l'on se souvient de son retour à la souveraineté. "Pour te gratter, rien de tel que

battre. Malgré les balles en plastiques, le gaz, les doigts et les reins brisés à coups de matraque. Non seulement les jeunes défient la police, mais ils veulent participer à l'économie de leur pays. Quand les écoles et les universités ont été fermées, on les a vus partir aux champs cultiver bénévolement la terre, cueillir les olives, etc... Rien n'arrête ce formidable élan vital: on a ouvert des "écoles" dans les mosquées, les églises et les maisons. Les professeurs travaillent sans être payés.

En définitive, les Palestiniens ont pris seuls leur destin en main?

Nous avons appris à ne plus compter sur les autres, qui parlent beaucoup mais agissent peu. En exil, nous avons un statut de réfugiés et l'on se souvient de son retour à la souveraineté. "Pour te gratter, rien de tel que

Le prix du sang

- Nombre de morts: 542 selon l'OLP, près de 300 selon les Israéliens
- Blessés: 31.300 dont 4.400 graves, selon l'OLP. 3.640 selon les Israéliens.
- Arrestations: 36.000 depuis le début (capacité théorique des prisons israéliennes), selon l'OLP
- Maisons détruites: 400 selon l'OLP. A Beita, 20 maisons ont été démolies à la suite d'un accrochage où une jeune Israélienne avait trouvé la mort. L'enquête a démontré que la balle mortelle était partie d'un fusil israélien.
- 3.000 femmes enceintes ont perdu leur bébé après avoir été battues ou avoir respiré des gaz lacrymogènes, selon l'OLP
- Du côté israélien, on s'accorde de part et d'autre à dénombrer une dizaine de morts depuis le début du soulèvement (11 selon les Israéliens).

Après la semaine française

Satisfecit

Dépasser la simple relation acheteur-vendeur et s'orienter vers un esprit de co-financement industriel: tel était en substance le vœu exprimé par Patrick Lecroq, ambassadeur de France, lors du dîner de clôture de la semaine française à Amman, le 1er décembre. Une seconde étape pourrait prendre la forme d'une semaine jordanienne à Paris, a-t-il suggéré.

Hanna Odeth, ministre des finances jordanien, Maher Shukri, vice-gouverneur de la Banque centrale de Jordanie et bon nombre de banquiers du Royaume étaient présents à cette cérémonie de clôture. La semaine française a attiré quelque 5.000 visiteurs dans les salons de Marriott pavlovski de bleu-blanc-rouge, "beaucoup plus qu'on en attendait", se félicite Jean-Louis Fontenille, attaché commercial à l'ambassade de France. 35 sociétés (françaises et importateurs jordanien) présentes en Jordanie ont exposé cinq jours durant leurs produits, des cosmétiques aux systèmes radars, en passant par les incontournables grands crus des vignobles français. Les exposants ont unanimement exprimé leur satisfaction, et certains visiteurs ont même regretté que la manifestation ne dure pas plus longtemps. Elle a permis de mettre en lumière le rôle joué par la France en matière d'aide au développement et de transfert de technologies: au cours des deux derniers plans, un milliard de FF a été investi en Jordanie sous forme de financements préférentiels et cent experts jordanien ont bénéficié des stages de formation de l'Agence française de coopération technique, industrielle et économique (ACTIM), rappelle M.

Fontenille. Second importateur de produits jordanien (potasse essentiellement) en Europe occidentale, la France est particulièrement présente en Jordanie dans les secteurs des télécommunications, de l'aéronautique et des transports. Alcatel, TRT et Câbles de Lyon ont installé la moitié du réseau téléphonique actuel. La Royal Jordanian Airlines possède déjà trois Airbus A310 (avion européen dont l'Aérospatiale assure la maîtrise de l'oeuvre) et a commandé six autres Airbus (sa flotte actuelle est de dix-sept avions).

Renault Véhicules Industriels (RVI) vient quant à elle de fournir 150 camions à la société jordanienne de transports routiers. Et Michelin occupe 30 à 40% du marché des pneus. Citons encore Roussel Uclaf (produits pharmaceutiques) qui, implantée en Jordanie, contribue entre autres à la formation de chimistes jordanien, notamment avec l'Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Co. (APM).

Certes, la balance est déséquilibrée: la Jordanie a importé en 1987 pour 1,5 milliard de FF de produits français, tandis qu'elle n'exportait que pour 135 millions de FF vers l'Hexagone. Mais les ressources touristiques du Royaume sont loin d'être épuisées et Air France en fait la promotion en France. La compagnie assure deux vols aller et retour par semaine, contre trois Amman-Paris-Amman pour R.J. Au total, estime M. Fontenille, cette semaine française a constitué une preuve de confiance dans l'économie jordanienne en dépit de ses difficultés actuelles. Pour l'avenir, il souhaite que des entreprises françaises investissent plus en Jordanie.

Une balance excédentaire

Pharmacie: en pleine forme

Lois des chiffres du commerce extérieur jordanien, l'industrie pharmaceutique enregistre une balance commerciale largement excédentaire. La baisse du dinar devrait accentuer la tendance. Mais les Jardiens boudent leurs médicaments. Nul n'est prophète en son pays.

De deux choses l'une: ou les Jardiens sont très malades, ou ils sont trop bien soignés. Amman regorge de croix vertes, avec 264 pharmacies privées, soit une officine pour 500 habitants, alors que l'Organisation mondiale pour la santé (OMS) fixe le seuil minimum à une pour 800 personnes... (source: syndicat national des pharmaciens). Ceci explique-t-il cela? Les "drug-stores" vendent bien plus que les seuls médicaments: une bonne partie de leur chiffre d'affaires se fait aussi avec les cosmétiques, parfums et autres produits paracépharmaceutiques... on y trouve même parfois des pellicules photo et des cassettes vidéo...

Il n'en reste pas moins que les Jardiens sont friands de médicaments: un marché annuel de 40 millions de dollars. Mais ils ont une nette tendance à négliger leurs produits "maison". Les cinq sociétés pharmaceutiques du Royaume, qui ont produit pour 67 millions de dollars de médicaments en 1987, exportent près de 80% de leur production et occupent moins de 30% du marché local. Ici encore, le mythe du produit étranger plus cher et forcément meilleur a la vie dure. Surtout dans le domaine de la santé, où quand on aime, on ne compte pas.

Question de confiance

Deux raisons peuvent aussi expliquer ce phénomène: le peu d'intérêt des producteurs pour le petit marché jordanien et les réflexes de prescriptions acquis par les médecins, pour la plupart formés à l'étranger. Les laboratoires, plus intéressés par les rentrées de devises étrangères, mettent l'accent sur l'exportation. "Plus de la moitié de nos visiteurs médicaux — démarquant auprès des médecins — travaillent à l'étranger. Nos plus gros clients sont l'Arabie Saoudite et l'Irak," explique Said Darwaza, 31 ans, directeur général d'Al Hikma, second laboratoire jordanien. Peu sollicités par leurs compatriotes, les médecins prescrivent d'autant plus facilement des produits sur lesquels ils ont fait leurs armes aux Etats-Unis ou en Angleterre.

ton propre doigt", dit un proverbe arabe. Il y a par exemple beaucoup d'argent des collectes de soutien à l'Intifada dont nous n'avons jamais vu la couleur... Mais le changement le plus marquant opéré par l'Intifada, c'est un déplacement du combat de la périphérie (ex. commandos du Liban Sud, attentats) à l'intérieur même de nos terres. Le dernier affrontement direct victorieux contre les Israéliens avait eu lieu en 1968, quand Tsalal avait attaqué Karamé, en Jordanie. 15.000 soldats avaient été engagés dans la bataille, mais ils furent repoussés par l'armée jordanienne appuyée par les commandos palestiniens. Depuis, c'était la déprime...

Après les décisions du PNC à Alger, les élections israéliennes et la victoire de George Bush, qu'attendez-vous de l'avenir?

Je pense que nous pouvons plus attendre de Bush que de Reagan. Ce dernier a accueilli très froidement notre déclaration d'indépendance, alors que Bush s'est félicité de l'acceptation par le CNP des résolutions 242 et 338 des Nations-Unies. Il est très au fait de la situation au Proche-Orient et peut influencer efficacement sur Tel-Aviv. Le refus de visa américain à Yasser Arafat au début du mois n'était pas le fait de Bush, mais un soubresaut de l'administration Reagan. L'OLP a tendu la main en direction d'Israël, la balle est maintenant dans leur camp. En Israël, la résistance va être coriace de la part de Shavit et des partis religieux, tout certains réclament l'annexion pure et simple de la Cisjordanie. Mais pour définir de telles orientations, les partis au pouvoir ne peuvent agir en solitaires. Ils devront composer avec l'opposition et avec la pression internationale. Nous restons optimistes.

Sur quels pays comptez-vous pour exercer cette pression?

Elle se fera en deux étapes: certains chefs d'Etats arabes ont une influence sur les responsables occidentaux, qui à leur tour peuvent mettre Israël au pied du mur. Côté arabe, nous attendons beaucoup du Roi Hussein et d'Hosni Moubarak, qui sont écoutés en Europe. Nous apprécions leurs démarches actuelles.

Le Roi Hussein vient par exemple de plaider la cause palestinienne auprès de Margaret Thatcher. Les Britanniques doivent sortir de leur immobilisme; ils sont en grande partie responsables de la situation actuelle des Palestiniens.

Et en Europe, qui peut vous aider?

Nous avons beaucoup apprécié l'attitude de l'Italie, de la France et de la Grèce, qui ont incité les autres pays de la CEE à envoyer leurs ministres à Genève pour l'Assemblée générale des Nations-Unies. Nous sommes pas choqués qu'elle n'ait pas reconnu notre Etat, car elle a par ailleurs pris une position très en pointe en notre faveur. La France veut sans doute maintenir le dialogue avec Israël, et elle est plus efficace en menageant son influence. Je crois qu'elle reconnaît en nous la situation de Gaulle pendant la guerre de 1939-1945.

Etat indépendant, allez-vous établir des passeports et des ambassades?

Pour l'instant, notre seule ambassade est celle dont nous avons posé la première pierre à Alger. Pas question évidemment d'en faire autant en Jordanie, puisque nous voudrions à terme établir une confédération avec le Royaume Hachémite (position jugée prématurée en Jordanie, NDR). Quant aux passeports, la question est actuellement discutée à Tunis avec les ministres arabes de l'intérieur.

L'OLP condamne-t-elle le terrorisme?

Tout attentat à l'extérieur des territoires palestiniens est condamné par l'organisation. La prise d'otage de l'Achille Lauro a aussi été condamnée, et Abul Abbas lui-même a déclaré que son issue tragique n'avait pas été voulue. Mais les Israéliens, eux, ne se gênent pas pour assassiner Abou Jihad ou pour envoyer des colis piégés à Bassam Abou Sharif...

Propos recueillis par François Ducroux

Les criquets attendus en mars

Conseil de guerre

Ils arrivent! La Jordanie est menacée par une invasion de criquets au plus tard en mars et devant l'ampleur des coûts de la lutte, le gouvernement jordanien fait appel à l'aide étrangère.

Réunis à l'initiative de l'US AID, les représentants de cinq pays occidentaux (Royaume-Uni, RFA, France, Canada, Japon), de la CEE et de la FAO ainsi que du Programme des Nations-Unies pour le développement (PNUD) ont étudié le 5 novembre à Amman les moyens de lutter contre une probable invasion acridienne à fin de l'hiver.

Le ministre de l'Agriculture, Marwan Hmoud, leur a officiellement demandé leur aide pour faire face aux criquets, qui sévissent actuellement en Arabie Saoudite, au Nord-Yémen, au Koweït, en Irak, en Iran, dans le Nord de la Syrie, en Turquie, et qui menacent à nouveau le Soudan et l'Egypte. "Nous avons besoin d'aide technique, de formation, de moyens de communications et d'avions pour répandre les pesticides", a-t-il déclaré.

Le coût de la guerre aux criquets a été évalué par les experts de l'USAID à 2.671.000 dollars. Ils estiment que le gouvernement jordanien ne peut y contribuer qu'à hauteur de 842.000 dollars. Le PNUD et l'agence ouest-allemande pour l'équipement ont déjà promis une aide d'environ un demi-million de dollars chacun.

"La situation est critique et il n'y a pas de temps à perdre", estime Randall Cummings, responsable du secteur agricole de l'USAID en Jordanie, qui souligne la nécessité d'une cellule

inter-ministérielle de coordination. D'ores et déjà, des comités ont été mis en place par le ministère de l'Agriculture dans les gouvernorats d'Amman, de Kérak, de Ma'an et de Zarqa. Mais les moyens sont encore très insuffisants. "Il faudrait six avions et il n'y en a pour l'instant qu'un seul prêt à l'emploi. Et personne n'est formé aux techniques de lutte. Il faut organiser des simulations", ajoute M. Cummings.

Selon lui, on ne peut pas totalement anéantir un nuage de criquets. Il s'agit donc de "limiter la casse": "Si l'on ne fait rien, 6 à 10% des cultures seront dévastées, soit une perte de 20 millions de dollars; si l'on agit efficacement, on peut en sauver 17 millions. Soit près de six fois la somme investie dans la lutte anticriquet. Le jeu en vaut donc la chandelle. Mais rien ne peut garantir le Royaume d'une totale impunité: les insectes vont et viennent en fonction des vents et des pluies, et ne connaissent pas de frontières dans leur bouillie de verdure. Ils peuvent donc partir et revenir, comme ils l'ont fait cette année au Soudan et en Arabie Saoudite. Et surtout, ils pondent. "Le seul moyen de lutter plus efficacement serait de mettre en place une coordination internationale", estime M. Cummings.

Un criquet pèse deux grammes et peut engouler le double de son poids en une journée. Un essaim d'un kilomètre carré contient environ 40 millions de criquets, soit une consommation quotidienne de 80 à 120 tonnes de cultures. On observe par endroits des nuages de plusieurs dizaines de kilomètres carrés.

F.D.

MANGER

Romero: al dente



Flavia Romero, la plus italienne des Jardiennes, ayant déserté en juillet son antre culinaire, le Romero allait-il perdre son âme?

Le nouveau maître des lieux, Zaid Goussous, a su assurer la relève à la tête haute. L'équipe aux cuisines est restée la même, renforcée d'un nouveau chef. Escalopes au vin blanc, lasagnes et viande rouge sont toujours à la hauteur d'une réputation bien assise à Amman. Un décor raffiné tout en demi-teintes pastels, éclairage indirect piqueté par la flamme des chandeliers, une atmosphère qui invite à la confidence chuchotée. Indiscrétions? Les journalistes envoyés spéciaux, abonnés à l'Intercontinental tout proche, sont en tout cas les premiers clients du Romero...

On y croise également la haute bourgeoisie d'Amman, une clientèle respectable et discrète. Le service sait lui aussi se faire oub-

lier, parfois même un peu trop longtemps... Mais la qualité de la nourriture vaut bien qu'on l'attende un peu. Vos désirs sont des ordres: le chef, qui a passé dix ans en Italie, sera bientôt en mesure de préparer les pâtes comme vous les aimez, à la demande. Bientôt également, un "chasseur" pour garer les voitures, souvent difficiles à caser dans ce quartier d'ambassades. Et un musicien qui, assure M. Goussous, saura donner le ton sans couvrir votre conversation.

Qui a dit que le Romero était hors de prix? Sachez qu'on y mange une cuisine très délicate pour la modeste somme de 6 à 8 dinars par personne, vin compris. Mais attention, pas question d'y commander une pizza: elle est à la vraie cuisine italienne ce que le shawarma est à la cuisine arabe. Romero, 3ème cercle, en face de l'Intercontinental. Dernières commandes à 23h30, minuit le jeudi. Tel: 644227.

A L'AFFICHE

CINEMA

Muriel

D'Alain Resnais, avec Delphine Seyrig (1964): une jeune femme part à la recherche de l'homme qu'elle a aimé. CCF, jeudi 12 à 20h00 (en français, sous-titré en arabe).

Les enchaînés

D'Alfred Hitchcock, avec Gary Grant et Ingrid Bergman: après la seconde guerre mondiale, une jeune fille agitée de la CIA séduit un nazi en au Brésil afin de le faire tomber dans les filets de la justice. Un classique. Centre américain, jeudi 8 à 19h00 (en anglais).

Un Américain à Paris

De Vincente Minelli, avec Gene Kelly, Leslie Caron, Georges Guétary: comédie musicale de George Gershwin. Un GI reste à Paris après la guerre et devient artiste-peintre. Il tombe amoureux d'une jeune fille déjà promise... Centre américain, dimanche 11 à 19h00 (en anglais), refil. le 15 et le 18.

Ciné-club

Séances respectivement 18h00, 19h00, 20h30. Le 8: Le Labirynth. The fortress. Platoon. Bananas. Brazil. Le 9: Baby of the lost legend. Avant. Chariots of fire. Night visitors. Birdy. Le 10: Concorde. The invisible space. Conquest. Evita. The passenger. The 11: Lawrence of Arabia. A picnic at hanging rock. Heat and dust. Love and death. Zabriskie point. Le 12: War games. The four musketeers. Piranha. Devil's rain. Day of mother. Le 13: Never say never again. The desert of Taurus. The good the bad and the ugly. The eyes of Laura Mars. Maussolium. Le 14: Doctor Jivago. Casino Royal. Sacco and Vanzetti. Night school. Company of wolves. Films en version originale. Tel: 663991. Route de l'université, à droite après le bâtiment "Cathédrale", puis 1ère à gauche. 300 m.

F.D.

L'éducation de Rita

Avec Michael Caine et Julie Walters: une jeune coiffeuse s'inscrit à un cours de littérature à l'université et découvre de nouveaux horizons, à la fureur de son mari.

British Council, mardi 13 à 19h00 (en anglais).

EXPOSITION

Paris-La Défense

Tout en gracieux et parois de verre, le nouveau quartier de La Défense est un symbole d'audace et de création architecturale. Une exposition photographique et un programme de films et vidéos. CCF, du 10 décembre au 22 janvier.

TELEVISION

"Mais où est donc passée la 7ème compagnie?", de Robert Lamoureux, avec lui-même, Jean Lefebvre, Pierre Mondy et Aldo Maccione: 1940. Sous les bombardements allemands, trois soldats français assistent impuissants à la capture de leur compagnie. Qu'à cela ne tienne, ils décident de poursuivre seuls le combat (JTV, vendredi 9 à 17h30).

CONCERT

Quatuor Messiaen

Jacques Didonato, René Benedetti, Jean-Claude Henricot et Alain Moglia, respectivement à la clarinette, au violoncelle, au piano et au violon, quatre musiciens de renommée internationale. "Je suis heureux qu'ils portent mon nom," dit d'eux le compositeur Olivier Messiaen. Outre ses oeuvres, ils joueront un programme de musique française contemporaine. Amman Recitalists School, mardi 13 à 20h00. Places: 1, 2 et 3 JD.

Table ronde

Pour entretenir votre français, discussions tous les jeudis avec des animateurs du Centre culturel, à la cafétéria à 18h00. Participation libre.

Réconciliation arabe

La Jordanie semble énergiser des progrès dans son entreprise de réconciliation entre la Syrie et l'Irak d'une part, et l'Egypte et la Syrie de l'autre.

Mardi, le Prince Hassan et le Premier ministre Zeid Rifai ont rendu visite à Saddam Hussein à Bagdad dans le cadre d'un "assainissement de l'atmosphère arabe". Trois jours avant, ils avaient rendu une visite similaire à Hafez-El-Assad à Damas.

La Jordanie s'efforce de réconcilier l'Irak et la Syrie afin de désamorcer ce qu'un responsable jordanien a qualifié de "situation dangereuse

au Liban". La Syrie soutient en effet le gouvernement musulman de Sélim Hoss, tandis que l'Irak se range du côté du général chrétien Michel Aoun.

La Syrie avait de plus rompu ses relations avec l'Egypte en 1979, après que celle-ci eut conclu une paix séparée avec Israël (Camp David). Elle ne les a jamais rétablies depuis, contrairement à la plupart des Etats arabes.

Premier pas dans le rapprochement Le Caire-Damas, la Syrie a salué la reconnaissance par l'Egypte du nouvel Etat palestinien indépendant.

De son côté, le ministre des Affaires étrangères égyptien a affirmé lundi qu'il n'y avait pas de différence fondamentale entre les deux pays, seulement des divergences politiques mineures. Il a ajouté que son pays n'avait "pas d'objection au rétablissement de relations normales avec la Syrie". Enfin, le Conseil de l'Unité économique arabe (CUEA) a décidé mercredi de réintégrer l'Egypte, après neuf ans d'exclusion. La Syrie et la Libye ont émis des réserves, sans pour autant rejeter la décision.

Salameh Ne'matt

Mediterranean thinkers ponder regional recovery

By Mimi Mann
The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — When it gave birth to Western civilisation, the Mediterranean was a landscape that modern ecologists have come to recall sadly as "paradise lost." Ravaged by man, the Mediterranean region has been scarred — lush forests felled, rich stores of wildlife silenced, mineral-rich soil long gone, aquamarine currents sullied by oil slicks. Today's Mediterranean world finds itself in an identity crisis. Some of the region's leading thinkers, fearing the world is passing them by, are trying to rediscover a "Mediterranean identity" through the only common bond they can find: desperation to save what's left of the environment, a garden of Eden gone sour.

It's a region "whose contribution is acknowledged by the world, but whose future lies in doubt," wrote Serge Antoine, international relations adviser for France's environment minister. Antoine was among 60 delegates who gathered over the state of the Mediterranean at an international conference Nov. 20-23 sponsored by the Rome-based think tank Aspen Institute Italia. He called on the region's 18 countries to unite their cultural and political wills to shape a brighter future.

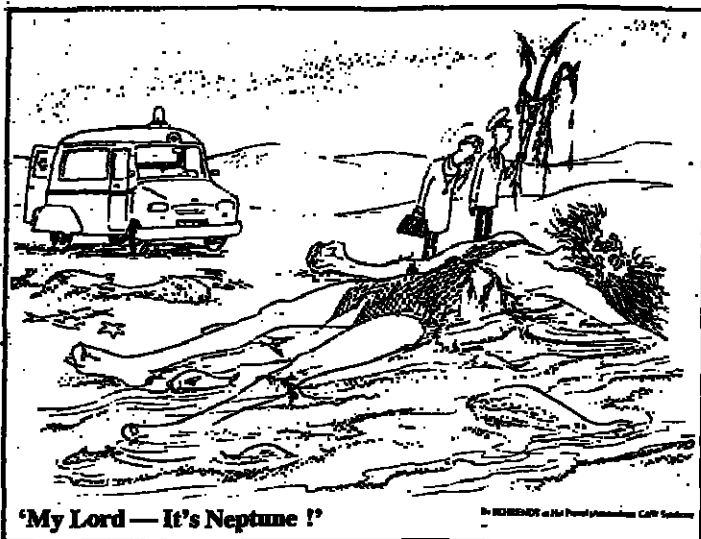
A clear message emerged from the Cairo conference: the only way to solve environmental, social, economic and political ills of the area is to find common ground uniting the diverse cultures tied by geography to the Mediterranean sea.

"There's only one issue that can join us now, and that's the environment," Gianni de Michelis, Italy's deputy prime minister and president of the Italian Institute, told the Associated Press.

"Despite the vast differences between industrialised countries that border the northern Mediterranean and less-developed countries bordering the south, everybody agrees we have to do something about the environment. It's the only rallying point we have, the one issue public opinion can use to force politicians to act."

Delegates from Europe, North Africa and the United States said the Mediterranean region has greater potential for environmental progress than most because of its manageable size and historical links its countries share.

A major topic of the conference was the Mediterranean action plan, a survey dating from the mid-1970s seeking to balance the area's environmental and development needs through the first quarter of the 21st century.



'My Lord — It's Neptune!'

The Mediterranean basin is among the most developed regions in the world despite its varied cultures, but its population and industry are shifting rapidly toward its fragile coastlines. Tourism is increasing greatly throughout the region, and almost half the millions of annual tourists remain along the coast. The basin has 46,000 kilometres of seacoast, only 40 per cent of which is flat, usable land. Additionally, population is growing unevenly, declining slightly along the Mediterranean's richer northern tier and expanding rapidly in the poorer south.

Experts warned of threats from other sources: ships dumping toxic or hazardous wastes, deforestation on both sides of the Mediterranean and the lack of effort to find alternatives to fossil-based fuels that pollute the atmosphere.

One proposal to spur Mediterranean recovery, suggested by Atef M. Ebeid, Egyptian minister of cabinet affairs, is the setting up of a "green belt" along the entire Mediterranean. American delegate Peter Thatcher of Washington's World Resources Institute, while praising the virtues of the concept, cautioned that politics can and often do override environmental considerations.

"Before hostilities diverted military forces from building 'green belts' in west Africa, much was being done," Thatcher said.

Umberto Colombo, chairman of the Rome-based Italian Commission for Nuclear and Alternative Energies, noted that the Mediterranean's problems are complicated because it is no longer "the world's focal point of civilisation and development."

"This focal point was first in the north, then in the west. There are good reasons to believe that it is now moving to the great regions of the Pacific," now undergoing rapid economic growth, he said.

Discovering a culture that always was

By Nelly Lama

AMMAN — Let no one ever pretend that bedouin life is rid of culture or art. In its own context, this life is a highly spiritual one, where man and nature are in direct contact, where man caters for his own needs, forms his own laws, taboos etc. and applies what we know as ethics and law only where it makes sense to him and his family.

Anthropologists who, many years ago, studied Gulf Arabs in their natural environment were very impressed with their culture and with the fortitude of the female and her intrinsic role within her community. When man went out for a fortnight's fishing or for a hunting spree, the woman took over. She undertook the task of judge, educator (in the Koran), procurer, cook; she even buried the dead.

Today, after the invasion of foreign culture that came with the oil industry, the Gulf woman has proved that neither change nor the influx of foreign influences could blunt her creative managerial power.

On her arrival to Jordan in October to represent Kuwait at the 3rd international seminar on Islamic art, Mrs. Ghada Hijawi Qaddumi, curator of Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah revealed a fascinating story of a capable woman who, in joint effort with her, has managed to change the outlook of the West.

"They associated Kuwait with oil and petrodollars," Qaddumi says. "They looked upon it (Kuwait) as nothing but a small modern country emerging from the sand along with an oil jet in the middle of a vast desert with no civilisation or cultural background. There is now a massive coverage by the international press, of our cultural heritage, our museums and our collections of art."

She talked about a dedicated young woman, Sheikhah Hussa Sabah Al Salem, founder and director of Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah in Kuwait, a great collector of Islamic art who understood that it is not by owning valuables that one is rich, but by making the object meaningful to ourselves and others that we bring it back to life; it is through recognising its origins, its history and its aesthetics that it becomes part of a culture.

"She committed herself to disseminate the appreciation and awareness of Islamic art," Qaddumi explains. "Ever since its founding on Feb. 25, 1983, on the premises of the Kuwait National Museum and under the aegis of the Ministry of Information, the private owners of Dar Al Athar's impressive collection of Islamic art, Sheikh Nasser Al Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah and his wife Sheikhah Hussa have stimulated a tremendous upsurge of interest in Islamic art among

the people of Kuwait.

In the course of accumulating their collection, amassed within the brief period of eight years, they had two things in mind: To satisfy a basic need for Islamic culture in the area, and a need to bring part of the Islamic artistic heritage, dispersed in the West, back home. To fulfill this aspiration, they sought the guidance and advice of Islamic experts from all over the world. They loaned their collection to the state of Kuwait, who gave Dar Al Athar its official status and its formal identity.

Truly enough, Sheikhah Hussa acknowledges incessantly the dynamism of the state and its contributions. Their collection was arranged chronologically in 10 galleries: 1- Umayyad, 2- Tulunid and Fatimid, 3- Samanids, Ghaznavids and Seljuks, 4- Iran, Khurasan and Afghanistan (10th-13th C.), 5- Ilkhanid (Iran mid 13th-mid 14th C.), 6- Ayyubid and Mamluk (Egypt and Syria), 7- 8- Tulunid and

Safavid, 9- Ottoman 10- Mughal. The museum covers different media such as metalwork, textiles and rugs, glass, ivory etc.

It is imperative to mention here, that this is one of the most vivid and educative collections in the Middle East for it was not housed in the museum premises and left to lie there, instead it participates in a number of travelling exhibitions within the Gulf states. It will be touring a number of museums in the United States of America over two years starting 1990.

It also hosts exhibitions from abroad such as that of the recently discovered early Islamic Koranic manuscripts from San'a which made a great sensation.

Dar Al Athar publishes bilingual catalogues to help in the understanding and appreciation of such exhibitions. It also publishes a bilingual monthly newsletter which covers all the activities, lectures and exhibitions held in the museum premises as well as a book review — the selection of new books acquired or offered to

the library — and articles clarifying the various facets of Islamic art.

To make the museum more accessible for the public, lectures are given by professionals. One session a week is given by Sheikhah Hussa who lectures on miniatures and carpets in Arabic, and by Ghada Qaddumi and Dr. Ramzi Bikh'azi in English. The season goes on for four months. Some lecturers such as Badi' Al Abed who talks about Seljuk, Moghul and Ottoman architecture and Dr. Ahmed Abdel Razik who talks about the Galleries of Egypt, are invited from abroad.

If the visitor does not choose to take such a course, he or she is assisted by a body of volunteers that Qaddumi is presently training. "Docent" is the name given to such volunteers who go through a rigorous programme of study and who serve to "enlighten" others by explaining to them works of art. These docents hold guided tours around the museum, in various tongues, thus helping

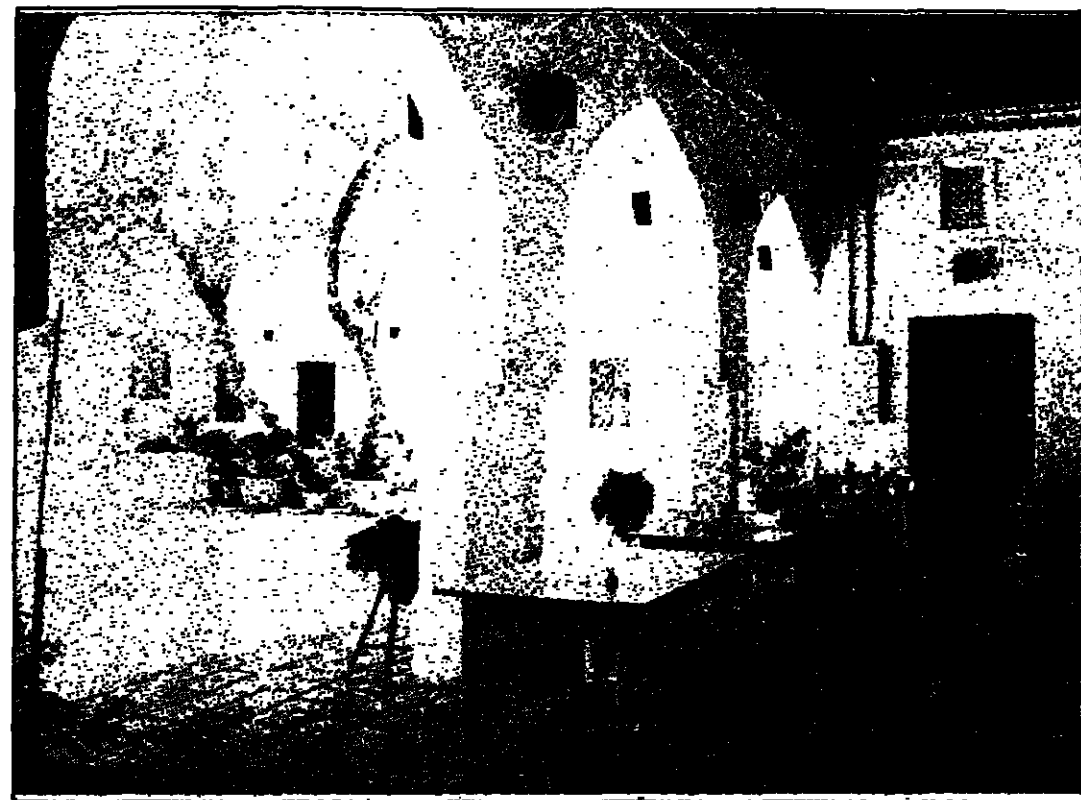
visitors to enjoy and understand the exhibited artifacts.

The staff of Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah do not only cater for the cultivated adult, they take the child into consideration as well. They mean to imbibe him early enough with a knowledge and love of his culture and heritage. As a child enters Dar Al Athar, he is given a children's guide with photographs, illustrations and a questionnaire about the various artifacts. Parents are given another booklet to explain to them how to assist their children in this novel experience.

To cite one example: Beside a photograph of a large ceramic tile from Mecca are the questions: "What is the building painted at the centre of the tile? In which Arab country is Mecca? In what year of the Hijra are we?" The child is also given three "creative pages" to fill in. He is asked to draw designs adopted from what he had seen in the museum, within the outlines of a plate, a ewer, a bowl and a carpet. In the last page he is asked to write his impressions of the museum and what he remembers of the artifacts that he had seen there. After these papers are sent in, the museum publicly exhibits the best entries as a further encouragement to children.

All these efforts seemed to cover the "theoretical" understanding of the artifacts only. Therefore a new practical workshop "The Muhtaraf" was annexed to Dar Al Athar in March 1988, taking the 150-year old Bayt Al Dar as a home. Its aim was to revive traditional Islamic and Kuwaiti skills. It now offers 10-week courses in ceramics, jewellery-making, metalwork, painting in watercolours with slide displays to familiarise the participants with the history of their craft.

Sheikhah Hussa and Qaddumi seem to make a wonderful team. Dar Al Athar newsletters are teeming with pictures of them with the various heads of states, presidents and scholars. Two learned Arab women who seem to probe the heights that professionals in the world's most advanced countries have reached. Two ambitious, yet modest women who have put Kuwait on the Cultural map of the world.



The Muhtaraf

Revolt in occupied Palestine

(Continued from page 4)

Similarly, the uprising revealed the token nature of opposition of the American Jewish community to the occupation and the cruel practices that inevitably go with it. The uprising, and the universally condemned methods used by Israel to suppress it, proved to be an embarrassment to the American Jewish community more than an opportunity to demonstrate genuine opposition to Israeli irrationality. It demonstrated the stranglehold of the idea, propagated by the Israeli ruling establishment since the founding of the state of Israel, that the duty of American Jews to Israel commands them to keep their pockets open and mouths shut, at least in public.

The *Jerusalem Post* (international edition, week ending February 6, 1988), reported that there has been "little discernible effect" on fundraising for Israel by American Jewish organisations. In some cases (e.g., Miami and Chicago) more money was raised than last year. The *Post* also reported that Morris Abram, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish American Organisations, said that "he felt confident that there is now support for a unified organised American Jewish community for Israel's use of force to restore order in the occupied territories."

The fact that the American-Jewish establishment has been more embarrassed by than opposed to Israel's repressive policy was betrayed by former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's attitude towards the events in the occupied territories. In a private meeting of American-Jewish leaders, Mr. Kissinger advised Israel to expel the media "à la South Africa" and then to put down the uprising "overwhelmingly, brutally and quickly."

Although there are indications that this view exaggerates the degree of support Israel's repressive policy enjoys among American (and other) Jews, it remains a fact that mainstream Jewish opinion was more embarrassed than angry. Even though there have been notable individual exceptions, the American Jewish establishment's most visible involvement has been to exert pressure on the Department of State after the United States cast a vote in the Security Council in support of a resolution against Israel's policy of deporting Palestinians. Their primary concern has been to ensure that American support for Israel does not diminish as a result of Israel's rampage in the occupied territories. They wanted, and received from Secretary of State George Shultz, assurances on Israel's behalf that American support for Israel remains "unshakable."

Given the often demonstrated fact that Israel is more sensitive to Jewish opinion than world opinion, these facts do not enhance the prospects of rethinking in Israel.

5. The Palestinian uprising reveals the predicament of U.S. Middle East policy. It shows the stark incompatibility between America's alliances and its interests and principles. The U.S. government criticised Israel's use of force against protesters, then it rushed a supply of the same tear gas which had already caused Palestinian deaths. It also signed a new military agreement with Israel. The United States opposed the deportation of Palestinians, then it refused to support a Security Council resolution calling for the return of four persons deported by Israel in January. It criticised Israel's harsh rule, then vetoed a Security Council resolution calling for respect for Palestinian human rights. It urged Israel to seek a political settlement to its conflict with the Palestinians, then it proposed a "peace plan" which endorsed Israel's refusal to negotiate with the representatives of the Palestinians, and ruled out Palestinian independence as a possible outcome.

The uprising was a call for a fresh look at such a policy, which has proven before to be a part of the problem rather than its solution.

Conclusions

The Palestinian uprising against Israel's seemingly endless occupation is a serious warning against continued complacency. It is a warning of the perils of self-deception, and of the increasing cost of self-delusion. The uprising demonstrates that the Palestinian-Israeli conflict will not self-destruct. On the contrary, it feeds on neglect and acquires increasing potential for future conflagrations in the Middle East. It also reveals Israel's incapacity to rise above its fantasies and face the political issue of Palestinian national rights, and it underlines the need for pressure from the international community to persuade Israel of the need to come to terms with the Palestinian issue.

Similarly, it shows the need for a U.S. policy which does not reinforce Israel's fantasies by catering to them. A U.S. policy based on the refusal to deal with the national leadership of the Palestinians and on the rejection of Palestinian independence feeds the Israeli illusion that a "final solution" of the Palestine question is a feasible dream. A policy such as Camp David is the surest prescription for the perpetuation of the injustices and upheavals which have been the lot of the Middle East since Palestine was first destroyed in 1948.

Many Palestinians have died over the years to make these points, and many others have died because the message was not heeded. It is time to understand that clever formulations are not a substitute for statesmanship. Too much of the former and too little of the latter have been applied to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Palestinian rebellion in occupied Palestine is an anguished call for change.

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ندعوكم لحضور البازار السنوي في فندق عمان مارينوت

يوم السبت 11/12/1988

الساعة العاشرة والنصف صباحاً

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Industrial Development Bank introduces risk-capital loans

By Ghadeer Taber
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — For the first time in Jordan, the Industrial Development Bank (IDB) is introducing risk-capital loans to entrepreneurs in an effort to encourage local participation in industrial and tourism development projects.

Risk-capital loans are credits given to any beneficiary who presents a sound project but either has no capital or lacks funds to start it. The bank grants the money needed in any of the two aforementioned forms at its own risk and after intense study without recourse to the borrower at any time for repayment in case of losses.

The IDB has at its disposal an amount of one million European Currency Units (ECUs) — about JD 550,000 (one JD = ECU 1.8) — which could be lent to "any person who has a useful idea to develop or set an industry but doesn't have the necessary financial means," according to Tayseer Wahbe, manager of the IDB's technical department.

The amount was obtained from the European Investment Bank (EIB), an arm of the European Community (EC), under an agreement signed in Luxembourg Dec. 1, Wahbe said.

The terms and conditions governing the IDB's risk-capital scheme are also stipulated in the agreement, he said.

Wahbe said any entrepreneur with ideas to develop projects in the industrial sector and tourism could secure a loan ranging be-

tween 50,000 ECUs and 300,000 ECUs. The loans will carry an as yet undefined but low interest rate and will mature in 25 years, he said.

Wahbe explained the risk factor by pointing out that the loans would be granted mostly on the basis of the merits and feasibility of the concerned project on a case-by-case basis rather than guarantees and collateral.

"This type of financing is appropriate to promote new industrial activities" in the Kingdom, he said, "since part of the risk is borne by the IDB and interest rate is also low."

Simultaneous with the one million ECU loan, the IDB also obtained another EIB loan of 10 million ECUs which will be utilized in the regular financing operations of the bank.

The regular operations involve higher interest rates and usually mature in 12 years with a grace period of four years.

The IDB will pay an interest of 5.3 per cent per annum to the EIB and the loan will mature in 12 years with a grace period of four years, Wahbe told the Jordan Times in an interview this week.

"This loan will be designated

for loans for various types of projects which the IDB has currently in the pipeline or has approved in the last couple of months," Wahbe said. "There is no priority, there is no preference. The amount will be allocated in the next 24 months."

The one million ECU loan, Wahbe said, is the first of its kind that the IDB obtained from the EC and it will also be the first time that the bank will introduce risk-capital loans in the Kingdom.

"It will enable the IDB to participate directly in high-risk projects," he said.

Outlining the background of the IDB, Wahbe said that the IDB was set up in 1965 under special legislation which was amended with the objective of encouraging, activating, developing and expanding the industrial sector in the Kingdom, encouraging small-scale industries and handicraft projects and assisting the financial market and the stock exchange, Wahbe said. It also owns equity shares in industrial and tourism projects in the Kingdom.

Another objective of the IDB is encouraging indigenous ownership of industrial and tourism projects in the Kingdom. The bank also issues guarantees and counter-guarantees and offers administrative and technical advice to industrial projects whenever needed.

"We also undertake technical and feasibility studies," Wahbe said. "In cases where the results of the studies are positive, we might also undertake the financing of the project," he added.

Usually, the share of IDB assistance to projects is around 50 per cent of the total cost involved.

The bank has a capital of JD 6 million and has access to foreign loans from organisations such as the EIB, the West German KfW

and Arab funds such as the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Development in addition to facilities with the Central Bank of Jordan. It also accepts deposits.

In line with the statute of the bank, the IDB maintains a specialised department of experts whom it assigns to scrutinise the feasibility and merits of projects before granting loans. "We make sure that the project is well-studied and prepared and properly executed and that it is capable of marketing a specified agreed-upon quantity of its products as well as of repaying the loan," he said.

Terms and conditions, including interest rates and maturity period, are decided on a case-by-case basis, he said.

Recalling the abolition of import restrictions on a number of products in August this year, Wahbe said the bank believes that "there is now quite a bit of responsibility on the shoulder of the investor... he has to put in more efforts at the conceiving stage of the project and has to consider each and every aspect of the project."

On our part, we assist the investor in this respect so that the risk is minimised... and ensure that the project is profitable and feasible in every aspect and be in line with the national objectives which have been clearly spelt out in the recent measures on foreign exchange...," he added.

At this stage, special attention is given to projects involving import substitutes and locally available raw material, Wahbe said.

The bank approved a total of 88 loan applications collectively worth JD 9.3 million since the beginning of the year until November, Wahbe said. This compares with 58 applications amounting to JD 7.73 million in 1987.

OECD calls for tighter screening of aid to projects in Third World

PARIS (R) — An international aid agency urged developed countries Wednesday to screen Third World projects more closely so as not to waste precious funds.

"The aim is to arrive at a short list of projects which should be subject to more detailed scrutiny," the Development Aid Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said in its 1988 report.

An official involved in producing the report added: "Implausible projects, particularly those

inconsistent with reviewed investment programmes or for which there might be serious doubts on prospects of sustainability, should be eliminated at the start."

The DAC was responsible for directing some \$41.5 billion of aid to the Third World in 1987, equal to about 54 per cent of all net financial flows to poorer nations.

Although this was higher than the \$36.7 billion allocated in 1986, it constituted a one per cent drop after allowing for changes in exchange rates and prices.

The 19-member DAC said off-

cial development assistance had grown by an average 3.5 per cent annually over the past decade, but that would soon fall to about two per cent.

On average, DAC aid last year represented 0.35 per cent of developed nations' gross national product, the total value of a country's goods and services. That was the same as in 1986.

The report called for more consideration in pinpointing nations which should receive official aid.

Africa would retain a high

priority with most donors but it was increasingly clear that most poor people lived in countries not meeting United Nations criteria for "least developed."

India, Pakistan and China, while categorised only as low-income countries, contained a large proportion of the most impoverished people in the world.

Others, including Indonesia, the Philippines, Nigeria and several countries in Latin America, had lower middle-income status but contained significant pockets of poverty.

Arab banker encourages wider participation by private sector

ABU DHABI (OPECNA) — A leading Arab banker has said here that selling public sector enterprises to the private sector would make a "significant improvement" in the efficient utilisation of resources.

UAE central bank governor Abdul Malik Al Haimar told a seminar on privatisation and structural adjustment in Arab countries here that the main objective must be to improve performance and increase the return on investment.

He pointed out that developing countries had made only "meagre economic progress" since the 1960s when many held high hopes of success. It was not because enough funds had not been injected into the development sector.

Al Haimar said the public sector had made a major contribution to economic activity in Arab countries in the past, but recently there had been a growing consciousness that the private sector should get involved more extensively than at present.

Dr. Abdullah Al Quwaiz, director-general of the Arab Monetary Fund, told the seminar that the need to efficiently and effectively use national resources had renewed interest in privatisation.

"Most current studies indicate that public sector institutions have become a source for draining national wealth and a means of corruption and nepotism," he observed.

Al Quwaiz said that the Arab fund which had so far lent \$1.70

billion to different Arab governments to meet budget deficits, would continue to promote Arab trade and economic integration.

He said the private sector was more efficient than the government in running certain institutions and should be used, therefore, to stimulate the economies of Arab countries.

He warned that privatisation should not be motivated by the profit motive alone but ought to take into account the public interest.

Senior World Bank official urges new strategy for debtor countries

LONDON (R) — A World Bank official said Tuesday a new agenda was needed to spur recovery

among middle-income debtor nations and avoid an erosion of efforts to combat the international

debt crisis.

Senior Vice-President Moeen Qureshi, one of the bank's top five officials, told a British parliamentary group the measures would build on a 1985 plan drafted by outgoing U.S. treasury secretary James Baker.

"The stage is now set for a new phase in the debt strategy," Qureshi said.

The new steps included new comprehensive restructuring plans, fresh commitments to medium-term lending, more flexibility in tax and accounting rules,

an expanded role for official lenders, greater credit distinctions among debtor countries and a new emphasis on direct investment.

"I do not believe that the debt strategy can be sustained unless we find ways to marshal the support of all creditor groups on a medium-term basis," Qureshi said.

He said the task was difficult and creditors had shortened their time horizons in the past two or three years.

Tokyo stock index soars above 30,000

TOKYO (AP) — While most major stock markets around the world are still struggling to recover from last year's global market crash, shares on the Tokyo Stock Exchange are soaring.

The market's main price index, the 225-stock Nikkei stock average, surpassed the 30,000-point mark Wednesday to close at an all-time high of 30,050.82, up 381.44 points from the previous day's close.

Securities dealers said the market's bullishness is supported by

the nation's brisk economic growth and sound corporate performance, but analysts are beginning to voice concern about what appears to be an endless upsurge.

"I can't find reasons for share prices to fall," said Ichitaro Watanabe, a dealer at Nikko Securities Co. "Bullish shares are taking turns and leading the market day after day. I am hearing some investors saying the Nikkei's 30,000 is only a milestone and the next goal is a 35,000 mark."

Inflation in Turkey shoots up to 87 per cent

ANKARA (R) — Turkey has reported its inflation rate soared to an annual 87.5 per cent in November, the highest level since just after the 1980 army coup.

Retail prices rose 6.9 per cent

last month following jumps of 7.5 per cent in October and 6.2 per cent in November last year, the State Statistics Institute (SSI) said.

The annual rate, compared with 41.7 per cent in September 1987, is nearly double the government's target for 45 per cent

inflation in 1988 after an actual 55.1 per cent in 1987.

The latest figures are widely viewed as a blow for the free-market economic policies of conservative Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, who wants to take Turkey into the European Community (EC).

Both the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have urged Turkish officials in talks in Washington and Ankara during the past month to reduce inflation and stick to targets.

Economic officials have pledged to cut inflation to under 20 per cent by 1992, when Ozal's second five-year term ends. Bankers believe the goal is possible provided Ozal maintains tight fiscal and monetary policies and does not bow to party political pressures as he has done in the past.

Inflation has caused widespread discontent among Turks who remember extremist political street violence and economic

woes, including 101 per cent inflation, which led to the 1980 coup.

But officials privately fear that any more hikes in inflation, which has seen rises of up to 100 per cent in prices of bread and some other basic commodities, could lead to a major groundswell against Ozal's Motherland Party.

"Inflation is the most important economic issue in Turkey. Public spending must be strictly controlled," Erdogan Altin, an economics professor at Istanbul University, told Reuters.

The major cause of inflation is a ballooning budget deficit, which officials say is likely to reach the equivalent of \$2.3 billion this year and \$2.5 billion in 1989.

The government was bolstered last week with an announcement that Turkey had a current account surplus of \$20 million in the first nine months of 1988, the first surplus over such a period since official records started in 1973.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Iran allocates \$500m for rebuilding

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iran's parliament Wednesday approved over \$500 million for rebuilding housing, businesses and facilities devastated by the eight-year Gulf war, Tehran radio reported. The radio, monitored in Nicosia, said that about 350 million of the sum will be used for "reconstruction of buildings and other facilities destroyed by the war," and the rest will go to rebuild of educational, medical and agricultural projects. Although substantial for Iran's

war-torn economy, the sum is nevertheless only a fraction of the amount needed for Iran to rebuild buildings and facilities destroyed by the war with Iraq, according to Western analysts. They estimate rebuilding will cost Iran as much as the eight-year war with Iraq. Some initial estimates are as high as \$400 billion in the next decade.

Iraqi phosphate exports rise 52%

BAGHDAD (OPECNA) — Iraq has exported \$41.50 million worth of phosphates during the past nine months, an increase of about 52 per cent over the same period last year. According to figures released here, the country's phosphate reserves are currently running at 10 billion tonnes. Iraq is stepping up non-oil exports as part of its drive to reduce dependence on oil revenues. Recent figures also show a substantial increase in Iraqi cement exports, which totalled \$4.53 million in value over the same period.

World Bank lends Morocco \$200m

WASHINGTON (AP) — Morocco is to get another \$200 million from the World Bank, the bank has announced. Morocco already owes about \$18 billion overall, including about \$4 billion to the World Bank. Last August, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the bank's sister organisation, provided a loan of \$287 million. The World Bank's announcement said the government of King Hassan II has promised to increase productive investment, improve the collection of taxes and try to get loans from private banks. The IMF and World Bank are owed by 151 governments. The new loan is to be disbursed in two installments over the next year as the government institutes the promised reforms. Normal practice is to halt disbursements if the agreed conditions are not being met. It is repayable in 20 years, including five years during which only interest need be paid at a variable rate, now 7.59 per cent a year.

Mexican president to combat poverty

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexican President Carlos Salinas De Gortari says he is declaring a war on poverty, promising to make food more available to poor people, renovate public schools and fight inflation. "We have to combat poverty wherever it exists, where it is most prevalent, at its roots where inequities are born and can generate social dependency," Salinas declared at a gathering of leaders and government representatives from the southern state of Oaxaca, one of the nation's poorest states. Salinas announced a programme to install community kitchens in poor city districts and isolated rural areas, trying to increase access to basic foods for poor people. He said the government also will boost the number of subsidised food outlets throughout the country.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday Dec. 7, 1988					
Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell			
U.S. dollar	468.0	470.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	382.4	384.3
Pound Sterling	867.2	871.5	Dutch guilder	237.2	238.4
Deutschemark	267.8	269.1	Swedish crown	77.3	77.7
Swiss franc	319.4	321.0	Italian lira (for 100)	36.3	36.5
French franc	78.4	78.8	Belgian franc (for 10)	128.1	128.7

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.8485/95	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1920/30	Canadian dollar	
	1.7480/90	Deutschemarks	
	1.9720/30	Dutch guilders	
	1.4695/4702	Swiss francs	
	36.60/63	Belgian francs	
	5.9625/75	French francs	
	1290/1291	Italian lire	
	122.95/123.05	Japanese yen	
	6.0475/0525	Swedish crowns	
	6.4870/4920	Norwegian crowns	
	6.7280/7330	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	423.50/424.00	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Overseas buying and a rally on Wall Street sparked a rise in prices for the second consecutive day. The All Ordinaries index climbed 12 points to 1,471.3.

TOKYO — Prices soared just before the close and the main index broke through the 30,000 yen level for the first time. The Nikkei index rose 381.44 points, or 1.3 per cent, to 30,050.82.

HONG KONG — Stocks shrugged off their morning blues to stage an afternoon rally on rumours that the Hong Kong Telecom share issue was well over-subscribed. The Hang Seng index rose 13.69 to 2,690.28.

SINGAPORE — Share prices closed higher following news that the Nikkei index had breached the 30,000 level. The Straits Times industrial index rose 2.85 to 998.99.

BOMBAY — Share prices on the Bombay Stock Exchange fell sharply for a third successive day on end-of-account considerations. Associated Cement fell 11.5 rupees to 396.

FRANKFURT — Shares closed higher in moderate trade but off the day's highs after profit-taking and position-squaring whittled away some early gains. The Real Time 30-share DAX index closed at 1,299.57, 11.63 points or 0.9 per cent up from the previous close.

ZURICH — Prices ended a quiet session moderately higher. Early gains following the record high in Tokyo and Wall Street's firmer close were trimmed by profit-taking. The Swiss index rose 3.5 to 926.1.

PARIS — French share prices extended opening gains, cheered by Tokyo's surge through a key level and New York's rally Tuesday night. The 30-share bourse indicator was up 0.64 per cent at 1200 GMT.

LONDON — Equities turned mixed in late trading after an early rise on Wall Street ran out of steam and the stock index futures market there turned lower. At 1535 GMT, the FTSE 100 was unchanged at 1,767.4.

NEW YORK — News that visiting Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev will announce a massive cut in Soviet army personnel boosted morning stock prices. The Dow rose five to 2154.

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

WBC may sell Tyson-Bruno rights

MEXICO CITY (R) — The World Boxing Council (WBC) will auction off the promotion rights for a fight between heavyweight champion Mike Tyson and top contender Frank Bruno if the boxers' representatives do not set a fight date soon, a council spokesman said Tuesday. Eduardo Lamazon said the most recent stumbling block to the fight was a contractual dispute between Tyson's former manager, Bill Cayton, who claims rights to Tyson's contract, and fight promoter Jarvis Astaire. Lamazon said an original Dec. 4 deadline set by the WBC for a fight date to be scheduled had been extended and no new deadline had been placed. He added, however, that if there was no agreement in the next few days, the promotion rights for the fight would be auctioned off by the WBC. WBC President Jose Sulaiman is now in New York and may attempt to work out an agreement in the dispute, Lamazon said. He said a formal announcement on the fight would likely be made when Sulaiman returned to Mexico City later this week. The Tyson-Bruno fight, originally scheduled for June in Wembley Stadium, has been postponed five times.

British tennis at new low

LONDON (AP) — Indonesia's upset victory over Britain in the Federation Cup plunged British tennis to an all-time low, press reports said Tuesday. After Monday's Federation Cup defeat in Melbourne, the Mail said: "Britain, the country which gave the game to the world, has become easy meat for the small fry of the world." The Mail pointed out that despite receiving vast profits annually from the Wimbledon tournament, including \$13.95 million this year, British tennis still was not producing tournament-winning players. "We are left to hope that a champion appears as if by magic," the Express said. Indonesia's victory had made Britain the joke of the tournament while the broadsheet Daily Telegraph charged that the team was guilty of doing nothing to assess the strength of the opposition. "The embarrassing result provides the strongest indicator yet that Britain are going nowhere fast," the Telegraph said.

Graf, Wilander named World Champions

LONDON (R) — West German Steffi Graf and Mats Wilander of Sweden were formally named the 1988 World Champions of Tennis Wednesday. The choice of the 19-year-old Graf as women's champion was a formality after she completed the Grand Slam of four major titles and then added the Olympic crown. She was beaten only three times in 1988, twice early in the year by Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina and then in the women's championship semifinals in New York last month by American Pam Shriver. Wilander was less commanding but took over the world number one ranking from Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia and won the three of the four Grand Slam titles — the Australian, French and U.S. opens. The two were selected by a panel comprising three former greats of the game, Fred Perry of

Britain, American Tony Trabert and Frank Sedgman of Australia.

Tour de Trump to be staged May 5-14

NEW YORK (AP) — When he was at first approached about promoting a Tour de France-style bicycle race in the United States, entrepreneur Donald Trump said, "You have absolutely got to be kidding." Trump recalled his reaction at a news conference Tuesday to formally announce the Tour de Trump, a race that will be begun in Albany, New York, May 5 and end May 14 at Atlantic City, New Jersey, where Trump owns two hotel-casinos. There the race will pass through New York City, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Delaware, covering about 900 miles (1,448 kilometers). Scheduled to participate are 18 international pro and amateur teams. Prize money will be \$200,000. Three world-class cyclists from the United States attended the news conference. They were Greg Lemond, the only American ever to win the Tour de France, Alex Grewal, who won the Olympic road race in 1984 at Los Angeles, and Davis Phinney, a bronze medalist in the team trial event at the 1984 Olympics.

Harding moves closer to title fight

TWEED HEADS, Australia (AP) — Australian Jeff Harding moved a step closer to a World Boxing Council Super-Middleweight title fight by knocking out Brazil's Carlos Antunes in the ninth round of their elimination bout Wednesday. Harding, 23, extended his unbeaten record to 12 victories when he stopped the tough Brazilian, seven years his senior, after two minutes 42 seconds of the ninth round in the scheduled 10-round showdown. The loss was Antunes' first in 21 professional bouts.

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1988

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The new Moon in Sagittarius ushers in a new cycle. Plan for travel, study or intellectual journeys that are useful. There is a strong urge to upgrade mental powers and break away from worn-out routines.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19): Overextension of the budget can affect family matters. You are running from one end of a financial seesaw to the other. Achieve balance. **TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20):** If you push too hard for love, you may lose. Avoid petty jealousies, and give your partner some creative room. Everyone needs freedom.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21): You love a challenge so you can prove yourself. Avoid setting up inferior activities that are not up to your talents. Develop quality.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21): Setting up things in terms of negative and positive produces poor results. Prepare yourself to take a middle-of-the-road approach. **LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21):** Doubt in your mind over a relationship persists. Draw back socially to take an objective view. Remain conscious of work and family schedules.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22): Others are depending on you for

answers. Organize yourself for up-coming career challenges. You have the power to succeed.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Love and home matters need attention and some direct and firm decisions.

Control yourself, and avoid instinctive reactions to circumstances.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You feel cornered and need change of pace. Stay with constructive activities that don't disrupt what you have accomplished.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Professional and career involvement needs more reviewing. Lay plans to satisfy your current desire for education.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20): Stop worrying, and let go of a problem in order to find a solution. Your past perfect ideal is preventing you from expressing your talents.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19): Learning to control your thinking will anchor your creative intellect to useful and rewarding projects.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20): You rise above any fears or doubts that you had yesterday. Be vital, energetic and enthusiastic, and keep your curiosity high.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1988

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Astrologically this is not a good day to start new projects. There is a strong desire to change lifestyles along with a need for freedom from routine. Some may experience this as restless nervous energy.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19): You feel unwelcome when you don't get your own way. Nagging stands in the way of clearing up problems. Control negative thinking.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20): Pressures at work increase. Someone may try to use emotion as a weapon. Ignore such tactics. Tomorrow promises to be enjoyable.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21): You may engage in a lively night out on the town with your mate. Your playful mood and communication ideas captivate others.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21): A social engagement you have been yearning for may be on tap. Physically attractive people enter your social circle.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21): Turn the other cheek if necessary today. Confrontations have no winners. Give others close to you the freedom to make their own choices.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22): Efforts to converse and clear up a

problem fail. A show of respect and confidentiality will help solve it. Take a conservative approach.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Avoid someone who criticizes and runs down others. Romance and love are kept apart later in the day.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You appreciate and benefit through your family. Your love is growing and becoming bolder. The veil lifts from a cloudy financial picture.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Excitement combined with restlessness has you ready to walk away from things. Resist an urge to do so. Relax with family and friends.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20): The time is right for romantic proposals. You can express yourself favorably. Money advances are at the top of the list today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19): Avoid harboring resentment over money hassles. Take advantage of your freedom to do what you want. Invite a companion to a new place.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20): The fast pace of life leaves you little time for yourself. Creative expression is needed to bring out talents. Schedule your time to include fun.

U.S. suffers shock defeat by Sweden

MELBOURNE (R) — Stomach-churning nerves and the pressure of living up to glories past led to the worst United States defeat in federation cup history Wednesday.

Sweden's women tennis players for once drew the limelight usually reserved for their more famous male compatriots by beating the second-seeded Americans 2-1 in a second-round shock at the National Tennis Centre.

The United States, champions 12 times, had never failed to reach the quarter-finals in 24 previous federation cup tournaments. Top seeds the Soviet Union also dived with disaster when Larisa Savchenko lost the opening singles against Austria.

But Natalia Zvereva, the best player here in the absence of the sport's top six, cruised to victory in her singles against Judith Witsn before combining with Savchenko to win the doubles.

Spain, West Germany, Australia and Czechoslovakia all won their second-round matches 3-0 but Argentina, the seventh seeds, bowed out to Denmark.

Sweden's Maria Strandlund laid the foundations of a popular victory by downing Patty Peard 6-2, 7-6 in the opening singles, her topspin backhand proving a weapon both deadly and graceful.

Catarina Lindqvist followed up by scoring her first victory over Lori McNeil — a last-minute choice as number one American seed — winning a match filled with tension and enforced errors 6-4, 7-5.

"This is the best result of Swedish women's tennis for a long time," said Strandlund.

"We knew we had a chance, but we also knew we had to play really well," Lindqvist said.

"We didn't feel under any pressure and after Maria started so well that made it easier for me to play good tennis, knowing we were 1-0 up."

Riessen paid tribute to the Swedes. "They were just too good," he said.

Barbara Potter, forced to stand down from the match by coach Marty Riessen because of a thigh strain, spoke for the whole team when she called the defeat a horrible nightmare.

"I have an awful feeling in the pit of my stomach. I feel frustrated for the team and I feel very sorry for myself because I didn't have a chance to play for my country."

"It's been a rotten day at work for all of us," Potter said.

Sweden will play Canada Friday in the quarter-finals. The Soviet Union will play Spain in one of Thursday's two quarter-finals. Spain, and in particular 18th-ranked Arantxa Sanchez, were too strong for Indonesia, beating Britain's first-round conquerors 3-0.

West Germany will meet Australia in the other quarter-final on Thursday.

Girardelli takes slalom lead

SESTRIERE (AP) — Marc Girardelli's comeback after a winless season and Alberto Tomba's second consecutive fall marked Tuesday's inaugural slalom in the Men's World Cup being run at this Italian Alpine resort.

The Austrian-born skier who competes for Luxembourg scored his 24th World Cup victory Tuesday. After a 20-month shutout, he proved that his skill was unaffected by injury.

Now recovered from a serious shoulder dislocation which troubled him over the last season, Girardelli, the only member of Luxembourg's ski team, flashed to victory in a discipline in which his previous victory dated to 1985. He had won two Super-G races and a giant slalom in 1987.

By edging Sweden's Jonas Nilsson and Swiss Paul Accola by a solid margin, he tied World Cup victories of retired Italian ace Gustav Thoeni, who still holds a record of four World Cup overall titles.

"I changed ski boots and slalom technique for this season and

it paid off," said Girardelli, who climbed 15 points from Pirmin Zurbriegen in the overall standings after three races.

Zurbriegen, the defending World Cup champion who is seeking a record-tying fourth title, made an early mistake in the first heat, did not qualify for the second run of the slalom here and failed to add any point to his total of 50.

Yet a 38-point advantage over Tomba was left unchanged as his Italian rival dropped out from the second race in a row.

An Olympic slalom and giant slalom champion, Tomba did not finish a giant slalom in Val Thorens last week and failed to complete Tuesday's second run.

The Italian skier, whose streak of nine World Cup victories propelled him to international fame last season, said he hoped to win a race soon to end controversies about his uncertain form and about commitments with his commercial sponsors, which have granted him lucrative contracts.

"He may face serious psychological problems if he fails in

another race," commented Josef Messner, the coach of the Italian team.

Tomba will have an opportunity to seek revenge in Sunday's slalom at Madonna Di Campiglio, Northern Italy, while Zurbriegen, an all-rounder, will try to widen his advantage overall by picking up points in two downhill races scheduled in Val Gardena Friday and Saturday. Tomba does not race downhill.

Last season Tomba had scored straight wins and picked 50 points in the opening slalom and giant slalom races of the competition while Zurbriegen had gained a few points.

The outcome of Tuesday's slalom indicated that the situation has changed considerably and that Tomba's chances to challenge Zurbriegen for the overall title have been compromised.

Girardelli's comeback into the limelight may signal that the Swiss skier has found a new rival for the World Cup title and for gold in the world championships scheduled in Vail, Colorado, next February.

Boxing authorities begin clean-up

VIENNA (AP) — Amateur boxing is turning to computerized scoring and better protective equipment as it battles charges of corruption and concerns over safety.

Smarting from allegations that bouts in the Seoul Olympics were rigged to benefit South Korean fighters, the head of the International Amateur Boxing Federation said Tuesday that state-of-the-art electronics would be used to make sure the sport was "honest and straight."

He also said gloves and headgear that would absorb 70 per cent of the impact of a punch were being developed with the help of the Berlin Technical Institute. To be introduced next year, the new equipment would virtually eliminate knockdowns and change the very nature of the sport.

"There used to be a certain set of spectators that would pay high prices to see blood," Chowdhry said. "But the widespread reporting of amateur boxing on television means grandmothers now are watching our sport, and they don't want to see that in boxing."

"We want to bring boxing back to what it should be — the noble art of self defence."

Chowdhry was interviewed as the International Olympic Committee's executive board and the association of National Olympic committees opened four days of meetings.

The IOC's president, Juan Antonio Samaranch, said last October that — because of medical questions and charges of corrupt judges — the position of boxing as an Olympic sport would be reviewed.

Olympic officials were particularly upset over the Light-Middleweight championship bout, when South Korean Park Si-Hum was awarded a 3-2 decision over American Roy Jones, even though Jones appeared to be the

clear winner and was named the best fighter in the tournament.

But the Boxing tournament in Seoul was also clouded in controversy from the early rounds, when South Korean officials flooded into the ring and attacked the New Zealand referee after a Bulgarian scored a 4-1 victory over a Korean boxer. The boxer then refused to leave the ring for more than an hour after the bout.

The federation's board of vice presidents voted last weekend to suspend the boxer and the five Korean officials until December 1990, Chowdhry said.

Samaranch since then has said that boxing would remain an Olympic sport as long as he was in office, and — barring ill health or a monumental upset in his re-election bid next year — that would guarantee a spot for the sport in the Barcelona games in 1992.

But Chowdhry said amateur boxing had to clean up its act. It would start, he said, by changing the scoring system from the "impression judging" that leaves fans and fighters in the dark about points victories until the referee raises the winner's hand after the bout is over.

"There will be no last-minute surprise decisions," Chowdhry said. "As long as the outcome depends on the whims of the judges, there is bound to be corruption."

Beginning early next year, he said, the federation will experiment with computerized scoring in which the five judges would tap buttons when they feel a punch has been landed. If a majority recorded a hit simultaneously, the point would register on a scoreboard, and that would be the official result.

Chowdhry said the federation hoped to have a "foolproof system" in place by the time of the World Amateur Boxing Championships in Moscow next September.

NBA Standings

NEW YORK (R) — National Basketball standings after games played Sunday: (tabular as won, lost, games behind).

Eastern Conference				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	GB	
Philadelphia 76ers	11	6	—	
New York Knicks	10	6	1/2	
Boston Celtics	8	8	2 1/2	
New Jersey Nets	7	11	4 1/2	
Washington Bullets	4	10	5 1/2	
Charlotte Hornets	0	11	6	
Central Division				
Detroit Pistons	13	3	—	
Cleveland Cavaliers	11	3	1	
Atlanta Hawks	10	6	3	
Minnesota Bucks	7	6	4 1/2	
Chicago Bulls	7	8	5 1/2	
Indiana Pacers	2	13	10 1/2	
Midwest Division				
Denver Nuggets	11	5	—	
Utah Jazz	10	5	1/2	
Dallas Mavericks	9	6	1 1/2	
Houston Rockets	10	7	1 1/2	
San Antonio Spurs	0	8	1 1/2	
Miami Heat	0	13	10 1/2	
Pacific Division				
Los Angeles Lakers	12	3	—	
Seattle SuperSonics	8	7	4	
Phoenix Suns	8	7	4	
Portland Trail Blazers	8	8	4 1/2	
Golden State Warriors	6	9	6	
Los Angeles Clippers	6	10	6 1/2	
Sacramento Kings	2	11	9	

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF

THE CASE OF THE SHRINKING TRICKS

Neither vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ 10 7
♥ 10 3
♦ A J 10 9 7 4
♣ A K 8

WEST
♠ J 8 3 2
♥ 8 5 4 2
♦ K 6 2
♣ Q 6

EAST
♠ 9 4
♥ Q J 7
♦ Q 8 5 3
♣ J 7 5 4

SOUTH
♠ A K Q 6 5
♥ A K Q 6
♦ Void
♣ 10 9 3 2

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
3 NT Pass 4 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♠
Never give up hope. If the obvious line fails, see if there isn't some other way you can squeeze out the necessary tricks.
It is not easy for South to stay out of slam once his partner has opened the bidding, even though he is void in opener's suit. Not that the slam is all that bad, as South proved.
Since he could not lead an unbid

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"We're out of ice cubes. Hope your headache feels better."

JUMBLE. by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

BAYBE
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

KECHO
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

LOVEUM
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

GETURT
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: A □ □ □ □ □ & A □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumble: ASASH HYENA SWIVEL DAMASK
Answer: Strong lungs often appeal to people with this — WEAK HEADS

THE Daily Crossword by Kenneth Witta

ACROSS

- Foundation
- Sloping runway
- Bridge
- Explosive
- Grass or hyaline
- Song refrain
- Red
- Freeman
- Sheepish families?
- Print measures
- Boxer's best
- Eng. river
- Gravure
- Finest attire
- "Messiah"
- composer
- Geopolitical athlete
- Tach reading
- Central line
- Haui
- Perviousness
- Toddler
- Copycat
- Of the cheek
- Movie
- "Chances —"
- Chip in a ship
- Early US guerrilla
- Mias West
- Jai —
- Walked over
- Homer classic
- "Me Kahr"
- Lea
- Mother-of-pearl
- Relocation
- Broadway gas
- Tea or thumb

DOWN

- Impaired
- Partide
- Scions
- Hearty
- Shore
- Egg, pecker
- Footless
- Supernatural force
- "The — of the Western World"
- Hawkshaw
- Chess piece
- Gulness
- Post Ogden
- Wald
- mountains
- Pocket bread
- Conjunctions
- Britisher
- Made butter
- Diary
- Author Jong
- Spread out
- Choppy
- Terms or Ott
- Durocher
- Alphabetic sequence
- High nest
- Actor Robert
- Synthetic
- Loosening
- Grip
- Cause sorrow
- Oven setting
- Pelvis bones
- Sweetheart
- Exhort
- gentleness
- Mickey and
- Minnie
- Swiss river
- Elysian
- Misty glison

Peanuts

WHEN THE STAGECOACH STOPPED, THE BANDIT POINTED HIS REVOLVER AT THE DRIVER, AND SAID, "PUT UP YOUR HANDS!"

WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE IF YOU HAD BEEN THE STAGECOACH DRIVER?

ME, TOO, I GUESS.

MUTT, YOU SHOULD DRIVE A CAR LIKE YOU PLAY GOLF!

HOW'S THAT?

WHEN YOU PLAY GOLF YOU DON'T HIT ANYTHING!

MUTT, YOU'RE HOLDING UP TRAFFIC!

CRACK!

MUTT, HAVE YOU GOT A DRIVER'S LICENSE?

IN OUR LEAGUE THERE ARE NO STANDARDS

NOBODY SEEMS TO BE BOTHERED ABOUT GOOD OR BAD CONDUCT

EXCEPT MEBBE THE MOTHER OF THE LAD YOU'VE JUST TACKLED!

Calm returns to Baku, tensions pervade Armenia

MOSCOW (R) — The southern Soviet republic of Armenia was said to be explosive after two weeks of ethnic violence but reports from neighbouring Azerbaijan Wednesday said calm had returned to the capital, Baku.

State radio in Yerevan, capital of Armenia, said late Tuesday that the situation in the republic had taken on an "overtly threatening character."

But TASS news agency said the economic situation in the republic was being stabilised and that most enterprises were reported working the day before.

The Communist Party newspaper Pravda quoted the head of the Armenian Communist Party,

Suren Arutyunyan, as saying that officials in Yerevan were implementing a Kremlin directive this week to end mass dismissals on the basis of nationality.

At least 31 people were killed in the most recent unrest, centred on Armenia's claim to the remote Azerbaijani territory of Nagorno-Karabakh. Officials estimate that 100,000 people from each republic have fled their homes and crossed the border.

Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev and Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov issued another resolution Tuesday urging stiff measures against local officials guilty of "inadmissible actions" in deporting large numbers of people.

Yerevan radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), said conflicts and clashes had become "sharper and more widespread" in areas where Armenians and Azerbaijanis were living side by side.

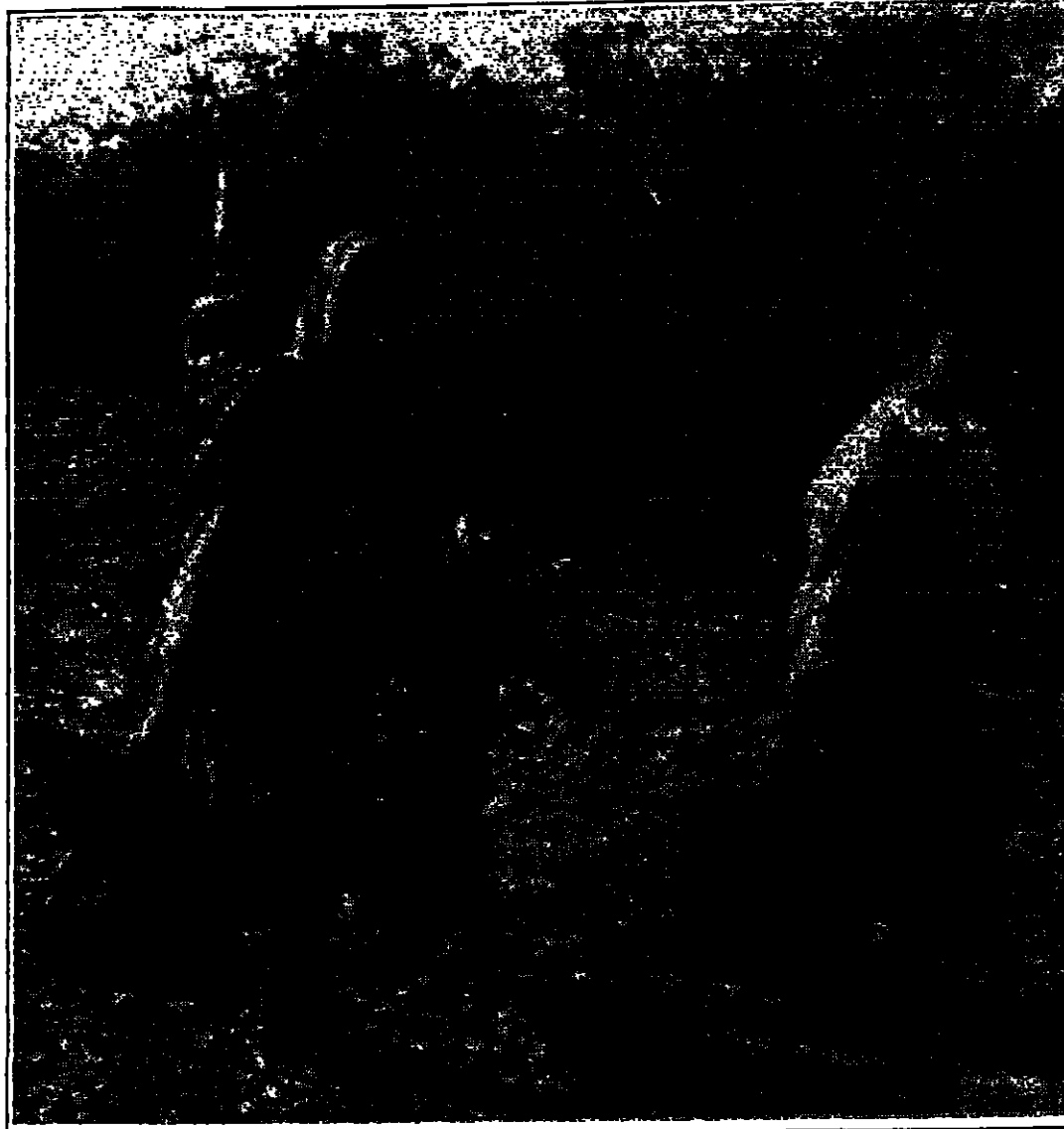
It said people had been killed when events had "got out of control" and criticised the republic's Internal Affairs Ministry for its handling of the unrest. In Baku, the Azerbaijani news

agency Azerinform reported no incidents following disturbances this week in which demonstrators clashed with troops, overturned cars and looted offices and homes. Three people died in the troubles.

The dispute over Nagorno-Karabakh has claimed more than 60 lives since it first erupted last February.

The territory is populated mainly by Armenians but since 1923 has been administered by Azerbaijan.

The territory's demands to be transferred to Armenian control have been rejected by Azerbaijan and the Kremlin last July ruled out any changes in local borders.



Armenian refugees flee Azerbaijan last week during a flare-up of ethnic tensions

Sri Lankan violence kills 47 in one day

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — At least 47 people were killed in continuing ethnic violence in Sri Lanka over the past 24 hours, military officers and officials said Tuesday.

An official at the Indian High Commission or embassy said 21 people were killed in a gunbattle between Indian soldiers and Tamil rebels in northeastern Sri Lanka Monday night.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the victims included 13 rebels and seven Indian soldiers.

Meanwhile, Sri Lankan military officials said at least three Tamils were killed, apparently in warfare between rebel groups.

The officials, who cannot be identified under briefing rules, said the bodies of the three Tamils were found in the town of Jaffna, 300 kilometres north of Colombo.

At least 23 people were killed in the south and centre of the island in violence connected with the violent Sinhalese uprising against the government, they said.

Of these, 16 people appeared to be victims of Sinhalese militant groups, they said. The victims, killed in separate incidents, were believed to be supporters of the ruling United National Party, they said.

The officials also said that the bodies of seven people, believed

to be Sinhalese militants, were found in Colombo and a southern town. The militants were believed killed by members of local vigilante groups, they said.

Sinhalese militants have been agitating since July 1987 against an India-sponsored peace accord aimed at ending the five-year-old war by Tamil rebels for an independent homeland. The war has claimed at least 8,500 lives since 1983.

The accord, which was accepted by the Sri Lankan government, later was rejected by the Tamils, who claimed it did not meet their demands for greater autonomy.

India moved in troops to quell the insurrection and has since been battling Tamil militants in the north and east of Sri Lanka.

India became involved in the island republic's ethnic problem because of the sympathies of its own 60 million Tamils to the rebel cause.

Sinhalese militants opposed the accord, saying it gave too many concessions to the Tamils. The government has blamed the militants for at least 900 killings since the accord was signed.

Tamils form 18 per cent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people. Tamil militants claim they are discriminated against by the Sinhalese, who make up 75 per cent of the population and control the military and the government.

Problems of elderly loom over Third World

WASHINGTON (AP) — The problems of dealing with an older population are looming over the developing nations, which now account for four-fifths of the worldwide growth in that age group, a Census Bureau report said Tuesday.

Aging has attracted considerable attention in industrialised countries in recent years. But the Census Bureau report shows that the majority of older people live in the so-called Third World — the nations least able to cope economically with the needs of the elderly.

Currently, developing countries account for 58 per cent of all people age 65 and over. And those nations account for some 80 per cent of the 1.2 million people who pass that birthday every month, according to the Census Bureau study, "Aging in the Third World."

The developing nations include 159 million people age 65 and over, compared with 140 million in industrialised countries, the report said.

"Aging in most developing countries has not yet emerged as a dominant social phenomenon," the new Census Bureau study by Kevin Kinella says.

But over the next 30 years, he says, the balance is expected to shift markedly, with some 72 per cent of older people living in developing nations in the year 2020.

Those countries have the opportunity to learn from the efforts and mistakes made by the industrialised nations of Europe and North America, Kinella reports.

"These nations have time to assess demographic projections, consider structural changes in social institutions such as marriage and the family, compare and evaluate programmatic responses already attempted and, in short, debate issues before they are branded as crises, Kinella said.

Papandreou's wife carves out career

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — While Premier Andreas Papandreou's romance with a 34-year-old airline stewardess makes headlines at home, his estranged American-born wife is carving out her own international political career.

Margaret Papandreou, 66, the international coordinator of a peace group called "Women for a Meaningful Summit" flew to Brussels Tuesday to attend a conference that coincides with a North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) defence ministers' meeting.

"Our conference is timed in parallel with the defence ministers' gatherings to draw attention to our point of view on disarmament," she told a news conference Monday.

In the past two years, she has flown around the world to drum up support for feminist campaigns against nuclear weapons. Last June, she met with Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev on the sidelines of the U.S.-Soviet summit in Moscow.

Papandreou said that from Brussels she will travel to Atlanta, Georgia to address a U.S. peace group "Sane Freeze."

"I'll also be launching plans for an international women's peace festival on the (Greek) island of Crete in 1990," she said.

Papandreou says she is willing to discuss her 69-year-old husband's divorce plans, but wants to meet him face-to-face.

"If he's ready, I'm waiting for him to come and talk to me himself. For some time, I've been asking to talk to him," she told reporters after the news conference.

"I tried to keep this issue between us... I didn't want it to become a serial story," she said, referring to government announcements and weeks of front-page newspaper stories about the premier's divorce plans.

The socialist premier said before undergoing heart surgery in London two months ago that he wants to divorce his wife. The couple married 37 years ago and have four grown-up children and two grandchildren.

He has not said publicly that he intends to marry the airline stewardess, Dimitra Liani, but her picture appeared in a pro-government newspaper captioned "The Premier's Future Wife."

Estonians stand up to Moscow over pollution

TALLINN, USSR (AP) — The parliament of the tiny Baltic republic of Estonia exercised its newly declared sovereignty for the first time Tuesday by banning further industrial development in an ecologically devastated area.

The action puts Estonia, with a population of 1.6 million people, on a collision course with Moscow ministries, but it is a battle the Estonians might win.

Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev has repeatedly complained that the central bureaucracy is the greatest opposition to his reforms, and he has promised to increase the power of local councils over the Moscow departments that run most of the nation's industry.

The Supreme Soviet, or parliament, of Estonia, declared its sovereignty Nov. 16 over all its internal affairs, but the Soviet Praesidium, or executive council of the National Parliament, promptly deemed the action illegal. The Estonians have refused to abide by that order, saying their

own constitutional amendments take precedence over Praesidium decrees.

An Estonian constitutional amendment gave the republic's parliament the power to veto Soviet laws, but Estonian officials are choosing their battles carefully. On Tuesday, they postponed plans to override a pair of controversial nationwide decrees limiting demonstrations and dissent. Estonian leaders have decided to ignore the decrees and instead to enforce only a more liberal Estonian law on the same subject passed last January.

Tuesday's parliamentary decision to crack down on pollution responds to public anger over the worst of the Moscow ministries' excesses.

"Life lately has shown the ministries don't have the desire to go to court over matters of environmental protection," said Estonian Prime Minister Indrek Toome in explaining why Estonia's government was stepping in.

del Lippmaa said the new environmental protection law could not have been passed without the powers contained in the Nov. 16 Estonian constitutional amendment.

The law bans expansion of mining or other polluting industries in northeastern Estonia, which has suffered tremendous environmental damage from phosphorite and oil shale mining and from the burning of the shale in power plants, said Lippmaa and fellow representative Juhan Aare, leader of the Estonian Greens Movement, an environmental group.

This puts the Estonian government in direct conflict with the Moscow ministries that run the Tallinn papermill, the Viru power plant and the Maardu chemical factory, Lippmaa said. Estonian officials have tried in vain for years to persuade the bureaucrats to reduce air and water pollution from these facilities, but they have had no authority and no effect.

COLUMN

'Masquerade' hare sold at auction

LONDON (AP) — Writer-artist Kit Williams whose book "Masquerade" sparked an international treasure hunt in the late 1970s failed in his bid Monday to buy back the treasure — a gold pendant. An anonymous collector bought the jewelled 18-karat gold hare £31,900 (\$59,650) at auction. Williams created an buried pendant in rural England as the goal of the treasure hunt whose clues appeared in his book in the late 1970s. The pendant eventually was found in 1982 accidentally, by Douglas Thompson who was walking his dog at the spot in Ampthill, Bedfordshire. Thompson was the seller Monday at a Sotheby's auction. "I would have liked to buy it back but couldn't afford to," the 42-year-old Williams said when his £6,000 (\$11,220) bid failed.

Phillips' comments cause a stir

LONDON (AP) — Remarks by Prince Philip defending hunting have been criticised by animal conservationists, and his comment comparing wives to prostitutes has drawn the ire of opposition Labour Party legislators. The outspoken 67-year-old husband of Queen Elizabeth II was speaking Tuesday at a luncheon given by the Association of American Correspondents in London. He made the controversial comment during a speech critical of the rescue of two whales off Alaska this October, calling it a costly "circus act," irrelevant to conserving the species. Prince Philip who has been president of the World Wide Fund for Nature formerly the World Wildlife Fund, since 1981 and who travelled widely promoting nature conservation, defended his own interest in hunting. He compared taking part in bloodsports, a favourite pastime of the royals, to being a butcher selling meat or slaughtering animals. "I don't think doing it (killing animals) for money makes it any more moral. I don't think a prostitute is more moral than a wife, but they are doing the same thing," he said. "It is really rather like saying it is perfectly all right to commit adultery — providing you don't enjoy it," he added.

Hefner is not that type of man

NEW YORK (AP) — Hugh Hefner, founder of Playboy Magazine, just is not that type of man. While 800 guests revelled at a 35th anniversary party for the magazine, the man once described as "the prophet of pop hedonism" stayed home. "I've sown my oats and I'm very pleased where I'm at," Hefner, 62, said in explaining his decision to stay at the Playboy mansion in Los Angeles rather than attend the party thrown by his daughter, Christy Hefner, who recently took over the company. While the party at Manhattan restaurant celebrated the ground-breaking magazine's past, Ms. Hefner, 36, made it clear that she was concentrating on the company's future. "It's no efficient to be a one-magazine company anymore," she said adding that Playboy had just bought into an "upscale magazine" and was considering starting an R-rated cable entertainment service.

Santa mad that elves earn more

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Santa Claus Tuesday traded his red suit for the legal variety, going to court to demand that he be paid as much as the elves in his department store. Terry Meller, a part-time actor, said his elves earn about 24 Australian dollars (\$21 U.S.) an hour while he only gets 10 dollars (\$8.80) an hour. The Daily Telegraph of Sydney thought Meller's gripe was worthy of editorial comment, saying the prospect of Santa going on strike was unthinkable and asking "who would deliver the presents" if Meller didn't. The story was the main front-page article with the headline, "Dough — or 'No Ho Ho Ho' Says Santa."

Former Beatle's car sold

LONDON (AP) — A high-performance car that once belonged to Beatles drummer Ringo Starr was sold at auction Monday for £42,350 (\$78,350). Sotheby's, which handled the sale, said the buyer of the 1964 Facel Vega Facel II two-door coupe was not a Beatles fan but was primarily interested in the French-made car. The 6.7-litre car showed 32,000 kilometres on its odometer.

Secret shuttle glides to a successful end

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, California (AP) — Atlantis streaked out of orbit and glided to a landing Tuesday as a small band of spectators cheered the safe return of the five military astronauts from a secret spy satellite mission.

Navy Commander Robert Gibson guided the shuttle to a touchdown at Edwards Air Force Base at 2335 GMT, ending a flight of four days, nine hours five minutes.

"They have been given the welcome back call," declared Billie Deason at mission control in Houston.

Two loud sonic booms crackled overhead before Atlantis swooped down from partly sunny skies for the final approach to Rogers dry lake in the Mojave desert.

The mission reportedly deployed a radar satellite to spy on the Soviet Union. But the air force and the National Aeronau-

tics and Space Administration (NASA) had cloaked the mission in secrecy and would not comment on the reports.

Tuesday's landing was closed to public viewing from the observation site on this military base 128 kilometres north of Los Angeles. Only a few hundred journalists, NASA employees and invited guests were witnesses.

In contrast, hundreds of thousands of people had watched Discovery return in October from a flight that put the United States back in space for the first time since the Challenger tragedy.

Mission control in Houston lifted its curtain of silence on the flight to report that Gibson, commander of the five-man military crew, had fired the rockets Tuesday to slow the spaceship's 28,000 kilometres per hour speed and drop it out of orbit into an hour-long fiery descent through the atmosphere.

Cyclone reinforces Bangladesh's reputation as bad luck country

By Atiqul Alam
Reuters

DHAKA — Bangladesh's latest catastrophe, in which a cyclone may have killed up to 10,000 people, has added to its unenviable reputation as an unlucky country.

Born in bloodshed in 1971, Bangladesh has staggered through coups, cyclones, floods, droughts, disease and ferry boat disasters during its short history.

Even for one of the world's poorest countries, with a per capita annual income of \$130, the disasters are on a scale the rest of the world finds hard to imagine.

The latest catastrophe came last Tuesday when a cyclone lashed the coast. By Sunday the confirmed death toll had reached 1,352 but officials said 15,000 people were still missing.

"My fear is that the final figure should be between 5,000 and 10,000," said one official.

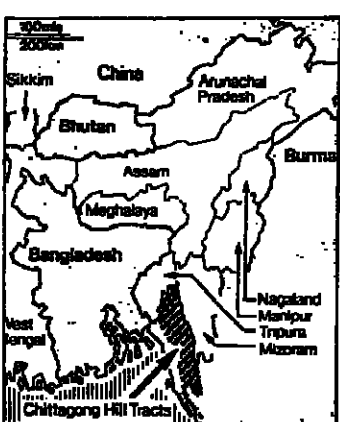
The figure pales against the total of 1.6 million who have died in the nearly 2,000 cyclones that have hit since records began in 1822.

The worst was in 1970 when 100,000 people were killed, a calamity that many believe helped Bangladesh's move to independence the next year.

The then president of Pakistan, Yahya Khan, did not tour the devastated areas in what was then East Pakistan, leading Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the father of Bangladesh, to declare:

"This proves that this land belongs to us and not him. We must try to keep him at that distance forever."

Jammed into a countryside divided by rivers and with few trees, the 105 million people have two passions — politics



Life is hardest on the tiny mud island in the Bay of Bengal, where five-metre high tidal waves generated by a 165 kilometres per hour cyclone struck last week.

Peopled mainly by fishermen, woodcutters and farmers, the islands are endlessly threatened by surging tides. A high wind can spell disaster.

When a cyclone approaches people flee for forested areas in the hopes the trees will stop the wind and waves.

When the winds are just a bit more powerful than normal, they survive. But when a real cyclone advances, they die.

Thousands who left the islands last week took shelter near the Sunderbans, the biggest Mangrove forest in South Asia.

After the cyclone passed, many of them were found dead, among the tangled roots of the forest.